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Downtown bankers crash Fleet fest

■ By Andy Newman

On July 18, two former executives of Maine National Bank announced they were going to start a new bank in Portland, the Maine Bank & Trust Company.

To regular joes, starting a bank in southern Maine's financial climate makes about as much sense as starting a ski resort in southern Florida. Mainers watched the feds take over Maine National and the other subsidiaries of the failed Bank of New England in January, then watched the feds take over Maine Savings Bank and parent The One Bancorp less than a month later.

Fleet/Norstar Financial Group of Rhode Island acquired both Maine National and Maine Savings banks. Customers at those banks automatically became Fleet customers. Fleet now controls 31 percent of Portland's banking market, according to the Maine attorney general's office.

Some Mainers think that's out of control. One of those Mainers is Elizabeth Noyce, the local philanthropist who has given an estimated \$12 million to charity. "To see all those Maine banks being absorbed by out-of-state banks was distressing to me," Noyce said.

Noyce is spending nearly \$7 million to finance the

new bank, which will be run by Maine National veterans Wayne McGarvey and Samuel Ladd.

Noyce and the bankers say local people share their disdain for big banks from away gobbling up their banks and will opt for their local alternative.

If state and federal regulators buy their start-up plan, Maine Bank & Trust could open headquarters in downtown Portland as early as October.

And the fresh capital available for cash-strapped businesses could help lift Portland out of the doldrums.

Continued on page 8

Jock spoils dinner

■ By Donald Maurice Kreis

What did the governor know and when did he know it? That was the question as Governor McKernan sought to disassociate himself from the \$500-a-plate fund-raiser held at Boston's posh Harvard Club July 23 for the campaign to support turnpike widening.

McKernan spokesman Willis Lyford said his boss never agreed to let the pro-turnpike Coalition for Responsible Government use his name for the pro-pavement party. But that's not quite the way coalition spokesman Robert Deis explained it. "Our understanding is that the governor was aware of the event," Deis said. "If he never got to see the final copy (of the invitation), it was an oversight."

The sponsors of the anti-widening referendum say the whole affair proves the McKernan administration is in cahoots with big, out-of-state special interests to force an unneeded \$100 million project on Maine's citizens. "Now the truth is coming out," said Peter Troast, president of the Campaign for Sensible Transportation. "It isn't the people of Maine who will benefit from the turnpike widening, it's the highway construction and banking interests."

As the wideners dined and the spokespeople whined, from Westbrook came an indication that the pro-turnpike campaign may backfire. Their strategy is to focus not on the widening itself but on the referendum's other "sensible transportation" provisions that would "impose an unworkable and costly regulatory scheme" on highway planners, according to a pro-widening campaign statement.

This prompted the weekly *American Journal* to come out against the widening. The turnpike advocates "try to shock us and shake us with claims that the process of trying to avoid mistakes would waste millions of dollars," said Publisher Harry T. Foote in the paper's July 17 editorial. ■

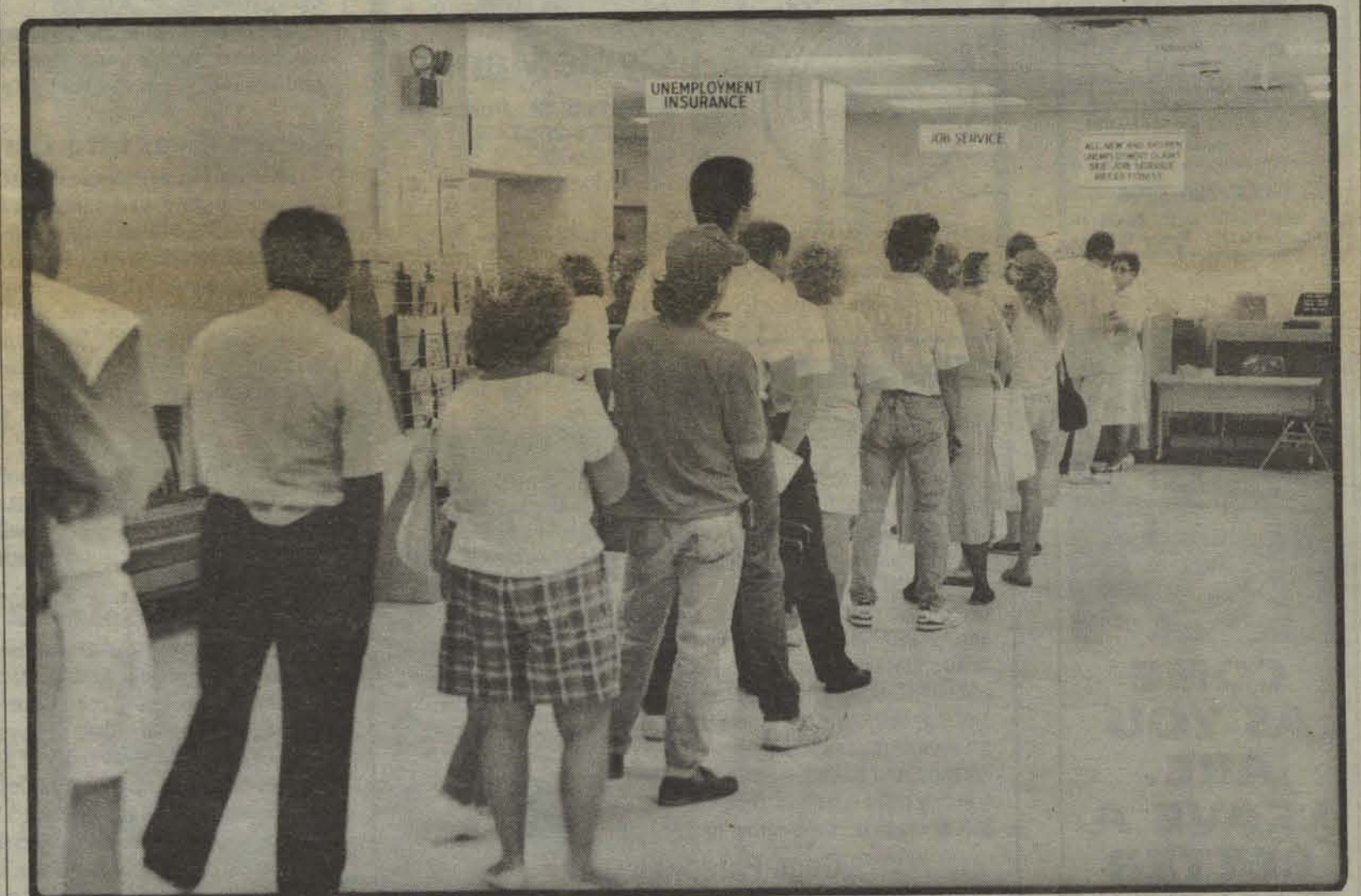
Casco Bay Weekly

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Romancing the phone: personals get a makeover.
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At Maine Job Service in Portland, people stand in line at the unemployment insurance counter. CBW/Tonee Harbert

Out of work and all shook up

Understanding Portland's under-employed

■ By W.D. Cutlip

Most people, when asked if they like their jobs, will shrug and say, "It's a living." In other words, while every job has its bad points, any job at all — however monotonous or degrading — has survival value. It's existential: "I work, therefore I am."

Most unemployed people, when asked how they feel about life, will roll their eyes at you and say, "This is living?" For many people, joblessness is hopelessness. It's a depressing experience, a royal bummer that is only exceeded by the experience of being unemployed and having to look for work.

Whether you are unemployed, under-employed or just a masochist looking for stimulation, nothing beats a day on the road, presenting yourself to various disinterested strangers and saying, "Do you want me?"

I know this for a fact. I've been looking for a suitable part-time job to supplement my salary here at *Casco Bay Weekly*. Unfortunately, there aren't many suitable part-time jobs out there right now.

In fact, there aren't many jobs out there at all — suitable or otherwise. And thousands of unemployed people — depressed, demeaned and determined — are competing for whatever's left.

Fortunately, Greater Portland now has two organizations that can help people over the psychological hurdles of unemployment: the Unemployed Professionals Group (UP Group) and the Committee to Organize the Unemployed (COU). Both organizations offer peer support groups, resume workshops and job counseling.

They also offer hope.

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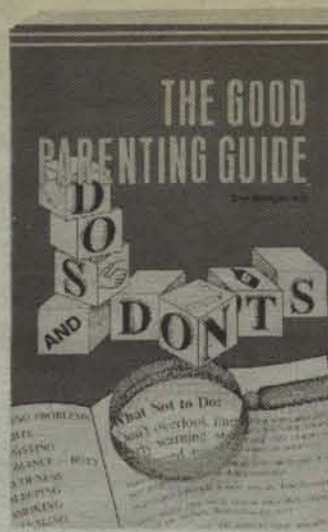
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Newsbriefs Weekly

A review of the top news stories affecting
Greater Portland: July 16 through 23, 1991.

Cops bust Cumberland Ave. kiddie ring

Two Portland men were arraigned July 19 on charges of using cash, drugs, and liquor to lure five children ranging in age from 11 to 16 into a Cumberland Avenue apartment that was allegedly used for prostitution.

Howard Taylor, the 51-year-old manager of the building, had his bail set at \$20,000 on three counts of child endangerment, one count of assault, and one count of promoting prostitution. Norberto Brice, 31, was being held without bail for a probation violation, and was charged with three counts of child endangerment and one count of assault.

Police say the five children have agreed to testify against the two men. The children told police that Taylor and Brice gave them alcohol and marijuana and then made sexual advances toward them.

Police say they began monitoring the comings and goings of Taylor and Brice—who both have long police records—several months ago after observing convicted prostitutes using the apartment.

The police intensified their investigation after July 2, when a neighbor of Taylor went to police after her 12-year-old daughter said she was given alcohol by Taylor.

Cohen dives into the pork barrel

Rhetoric about defense cutbacks and the peace economy notwithstanding, and despite the impending shutdown of Loring Air Force Base in Arrostook County, the military pork barrel is alive and well in Maine.

Or, as Senator William Cohen put it after the Senate Armed Services Committee signed off on \$4.1 billion for Bath Iron Works and \$16.6 million for Saco Defense, "While we clearly are reducing the level of military spending, I am pleased that these programs that are of importance to Maine have withstood the committee's scrutiny and are included in next year's defense bill."

Cohen, a member of the armed services panel, said the BIW appropriation will pay for five Aegis guided-missile destroyers, while Saco Defense will get to sell the Pentagon another 1,066 of its MK-19 grenade-launcher machine guns.

USM tuition soars 12 percent

Undergraduate students at the University of Southern Maine will have to fork over \$240 more than they did last year to attend the school, under a tuition hike approved July 22 by trustees of the state university system.

Altogether, the University of Maine System's budget is being fed with \$5.9 million in tuition hikes. The cost of going to the state university has thus climbed 24 percent in two years.

This year's state budget crisis saw the university system's share of taxpayer dollars remain nearly steady at \$145 million. The schools trimmed about \$10 million from their budgets and passed the rest of their cost increases along to the students.

Metro offers free lunch ride

Bus ridership fell another 5 percent during the first five months of the year in Greater Portland, but Metro is fighting back with a program it hopes will get people who don't ride mass transit to try it.

The new "Lunch Hop" program will mean free rides between City Hall and Congress Square between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. "We figured we're not going to lose any revenue by offering free rides between Congress Square and Exchange Street," said Metro General Manager Sarah DeDoe. She said Metro used to offer free rides within a "dash zone" between Monument Square and Congress Square, and the new program is an echo of that bygone era.

DeDoe says Metro got the idea for the "Lunch Hop" after city officials moved the weekly farmers' market into Monument Square and Intown Portland Exchange launched a program of free lunchtime outdoor concerts to give commerce on Congress Street a boost.

Metro, which has been losing ridership for a decade, hopes the free riders will be so delighted with the bus experience that they will become paying customers.

Peoples Heritage still sinking

As Maine National Bank fades into the Fleet-takeover sunset and dawn approaches for the new Maine Bank and Trust (see cover story), Portland's only functioning Maine-owned bank continues to wilt in the broiling heat of the state's parched economy.

Peoples Heritage Financial Group, parent company of Peoples Heritage Bank, announced July 18 that it had lost money for a fourth consecutive quarter. But Executive Vice President Peter J. Verrill sought to put a positive spin on the news by saying the \$5.6 million loss was "less than we had projected it was going to be."

"We are anticipating that things will begin to bottom out and start to improve a little bit," Verrill said, conceding that he has no idea whether that will really happen.

Federal and state regulators have targeted Peoples for special concern, trying to keep the bank from suffering the fate of Maine Savings Bank (declared insolvent and taken over by Fleet Bank) and Maine National Bank (sold by federal regulators as part of the failed Bank of New England and taken over by Fleet). To that end, Peoples signed an agreement with the banking agencies designed to move the bank toward financial soundness. The effects, however, are not yet apparent. Peoples said that nonperforming assets, i.e. loans that aren't being repaid, neared the \$200 million mark as of the end of June, up from nearly \$180 million three months earlier.

Fleet boss gets bossier job

Rhode Island's Fleet bank has promoted the head of its Maine empire. Anne Szostak, who has been serving as president and chief operating officer of Fleet Bank of Maine, is now chairman and chief operating officer of Fleet's Portland-based Maine subsidiary. Szostak inherits the post from Roger Castonguay, who died last March.

Brody benched

Looking for work? The Maine Supreme Judicial Court has a vacancy and resumes should be sent to the governor's office. Justice Morton A. Brody is moving across the street to U.S. District Court, having won Senate confirmation to the federal bench after promising to set as few precedents as possible.

Brody, who assumes a new federal judgeship created in Maine to handle the ever-growing number of drug prosecutions, said at his confirmation hearing that he'd leave the precedents to the U.S. Supreme Court with

■ Continued on page 5

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How to submit a letter
Casco Bay Weekly welcomes letters on all topics, but will not print unsigned letters or letters that have been sent to other publications. Letters are printed in the order they are received, on a space-available basis. Be brief and to the point. Letters of more than 300 words may be edited for length. Be sure to include your signature, full name, address and daytime phone number. (Addresses and phones are for verification only and will not be printed.)

How to submit a correction
Casco Bay Weekly strives to report the news fairly and accurately. If we have published a misstatement, we will endeavor to correct it quickly and in an appropriate place in the newspaper. Please contact News Editor Andy Newman about mistakes in news stories. Please contact Arts Editor Ellen Liburt about mistakes in "Entertainment Weekly."

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A.A.N.

WE MAKE NEWS MATTER

Newsbriefs Weekly

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its conservative majority. U.S. Senator William Cohen, who as Maine's GOP senator recommended Brody to Republican President Bush, said the swift confirmation is "a clear endorsement of the high intellect, exceptional judicial temperament, and strong character that Justice Brody will bring to the federal bench."

Dick does it again
U.S. Attorney Richard Cohen has staged another one of his press conferences to award his own drug-enforcement empire a wad of money.

Cohen announced on July 17 that he was awarding six police agencies a total of \$130,000 from property seized from people he has prosecuted for selling or using illegal drugs. But half of that — \$66,654, to be exact — went to the Maine Department of Public Safety, which handles the funds for BIDE, the state-federal drug enforcement agency Cohen founded to put more drug users behind bars. The rest went to the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department and police departments in Portland, Waldoboro, Lewiston and Cumberland.

"The unified drug enforcement program has never been working better," said Cohen, adding that he has now given out a total of \$2.1 million to police agencies from property seized under the federal "zero tolerance" program that allows prosecutors to claim anything used in connection with illegal drug trade.

No L.A. law in Biddeford

Biddeford's videotaped police brutality case is not heading in the same direction as its celebrated Los Angeles counterpart. Attorney General Michael Carpenter says he has looked into allegations that Biddeford and Old Orchard Beach police got carried away when they arrested a 19-year-old black man last month. The officers acted in a "professional manner," Carpenter declared.

He conducted the probe after claims that police allowed a dog from Old Orchard Beach's canine unit to bite suspect Jamison Snyder, who was arrested after a four-hour chase on a burglary charge. Portions of the arrest were captured on two different amateur videotapes.

Gypsies still jailed

Steve Mitchell of Newark, New Jersey took the stand in a Portland federal courtroom

July 18 to announce that he was one of seven "Gypsy kings" in the United States and that he could put up \$50,000 in bail money for a couple who claim they are victims of anti-Gypsy discrimination.

Lesek Zmeiwski and Zofia Jaworska are accused of taking part in a burglary ring that the government says stole more than \$1 million in valuables, including jewelry and silverware taken from Maine homes. And when a federal prosecutor suggested the two would flee the country if freed, their lawyer claimed his clients were the victims of ethnic discrimination.

This argument apparently failed to move U.S. Magistrate David Cohen, who refused to release the couple on bail. They remain in custody pending trial.

Historic site — or just a dump?

The Boston developers who own the vacant Tracy-Causser Block say their building on the corner of Fore and Center streets is more of a dangerous eyesore than a historic site. And to prove it, they offered a tour of the structure on July 23 to members of the city council and the city's historic preservation commission.

The 20-odd-member group was guided around and inside the 130-year-old building by Gary Vogel, an attorney representing the Fineberg Companies, and Al Hutcheon, a structural engineer working for the developers.

The owners say the building is structurally unsound and needs to be torn down. Preservationists argue that the building is a unique example of Greek Revival architecture that existed in Portland before the Great Fire of 1866.

The Historic Preservation Committee nominated the building for landmark status back in May, a move that irked the owners of the building. Approval of a landmark designation by the city council would make it very difficult to tear down the building or develop the site for other uses.

The city council is scheduled to decide whether to grant landmark status to the building on August 19.

A right to rub?

A Saco massage parlor operator is suing the mayor and the city council in Saco for \$100,000, claiming the city's newly enacted massage ordinance that bans genital massage violates his constitutional rights.

Carl Himes, owner of the Absolute Massage Salon, says in his suit that the city placed no restrictions on the type of massage he could offer when he opened for business in March and so it should not be

Continued on page 6



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Newsbriefs Weekly

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allowed to do so now without compensating him.

Himes claims that the new ordinance is destroying his business. He has asked the judge to suspend the ordinance until his case is decided.

RWS debris dump wins in Gorham

Under pressure from the Gorham Town Council, the town manager and Regional Waste Systems, the Gorham Planning Board gave a reluctant thumbs up to RWS' plan for a 70-foot landfill on the former Ross Grant property on lower Main Street.

After peppering planning board members with a long list of financial arguments in favor of the RWS landfill — chief among them the \$400,000 Gorham stood to gain in yearly payments from the regional trash agency — board members went along with Town Manager Paul Weston's recommendations and voted 4-2 to approve the application.

Weston estimated that Gorham stood to pocket \$8.4 million from RWS over the course of the landfill's 24-year projected lifetime and to save over \$1 million in waste disposal costs over the same period.

A plan to keep the height of the landfill at a maximum of 50 feet was also scrubbed by the board under pressure from RWS. The company had threatened to build the landfill in another community if the 70-foot height was not agreed to by the board.

With city approval out of the way, RWS is waiting for permission from state and federal environmental agencies before beginning construction of the demolition-debris and yard-waste facility.

Harbor patrol grounds boat

With an empty wallet staring them in the face, the Board of Harbor Commissioners has put one of its two patrol boats in mothballs, laid off two assistant harbor masters, and launched a lawsuit against the state transportation department over a ferry pier on Great Diamond Island.

The harbor commission has taken the draconian measures in light of a funding delay from the cities of Portland and South Portland and a delay in collecting new recreational boating user fees. So far the commission has collected no money to pay for its \$96,000 budget for fiscal year 1991-92. The commission is waiting

for the two cities to ante up the \$8,000 they each pledged to the commission and roughly \$39,000 in boating user fees.

Until then, the commission's 17-foot patrol boat has been pulled from service, ending the jobs of two assistant harbor masters who used the vessel for speed enforcement.

The harbor commission has also sued the Maine DOT for not applying for a building permit from the commission before building a \$260,000 ferry pier on Great Diamond Island. The state says it doesn't need a permit from the commission.

Superior Court Judge Roland Cole has issued a temporary restraining order halting construction, but ordered the commission to post a \$300,000 bond to cover the state's expenses should it win the case and finish the project after the delay.

Trains may roll by summer of 1993

TrainRiders Northeast has made history by becoming the first group to see its citizen-initiated bill become law without a statewide referendum.

Governor McKernan signed the legislation in the midst of mid-July's budget fracas. It directs state officials to seek money to restore passenger service between Portland and Boston.

The cost of such a plan has been estimated at about \$50 million, of which Maine's share would be \$20 million. Wayne Davis, chairman of the TrainRiders group, says service could begin as soon as the summer of 1993. Davis announced that he and Transportation Commissioner Dana Connors will travel to Washington during the last week of July in search of federal funds.

Critics say Davis and Connors have been traveling together a bit too much already. They think the two conspired to sneak the bill through the Legislature to keep it off the ballot in November where it might have attracted foes of the turnpike widening to the polls. Supporters of the referendum to stop the widening say Davis' alliance with Connors will backfire. They theorize that without the mandate from a successful statewide vote, the TrainRiders group won't be able to force officials to find money to get the trains moving.

The County lashes back at Pentagon

Now that Loring Air Force Base is closing instead of Plattsburgh Air Force Base in upstate New York, folks in northern Maine have a suggestion for the Pentagon on what to do with their plan for low-level training flights over Aroostook County.

"If the Plattsburgh

community is such a great place for the Air Force, let them fly low-level training flights there," said U.S. Representative Olympia Snowe, who has not shown a similar distaste for cruise missile tests over Maine despite the successful statewide referendum demanding an end to that program.

Under the Air Force's plan for the "Great State of Maine Military Operating Area," Maine would host 3,000 training missions a year, including some that fly as low as 100 feet above the ground in an area that includes the Allagash wilderness. This news comes after the federal base-closing panel cited poor quality of life in the County as a reason for mothballing Loring.

"We've been stepped on real good and it's time to return the favor," said Mayor Leo Kieffer of Caribou. "Tell the Air Force to fly over New York and if they bail out, they'll be in a wonderful living environment."

Region dithers over smog plan

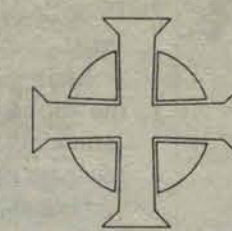
Maine and 11 other northeastern states are backing away from adopting the tough auto emissions standards currently used by California to fight air pollution there.

The Northeast Ozone Transportation Commission, which includes environmental officials from Maine, the rest of New England, and the mid-Atlantic states, voted earlier this month to support "consideration" of the California standards rather than "adoption" of them.

Maine, along with Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, has taken steps to adopt California's strict program of regulating auto emissions. But because air pollution tends to travel in a northeastern direction in the region, the southern states balking at the tough emissions program are sending smog in Maine's direction.

California has an increasingly strict set of emission standards slated to begin in 1994 and requires that cars with no emissions whatsoever make up at least 10 percent of car sales by 2003. Environmental officials estimate that adding low-emissions technology to new cars would add an average \$170 to their retail price.

Reported by Eric Hannelius, Donald Maurice Kreis and the Associated Press.



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NEW BANK

Continued from front page

Starting a new bank

When the FDIC announced on Monday, April 22 that Fleet/Norstar Financial Group of Rhode Island was the winning bidder on Maine National Bank and other subsidiaries of the failed Bank of New England, bankers at Maine National started updating their resumes.

"We'd hoped that there might be a different solution that would allow Maine National to be viable and continue in a way that would make some sense," said former president and chief executive officer of Maine National, Wayne McGarvey.

McGarvey and other Maine National bankers knew that another bidder which had no Maine banks, BankAmerica Corp., would have kept Maine National and their jobs intact. But since Fleet already had plenty of banks in Maine, the bankers also knew that Maine National branches would be converted to Fleets and would be run by Fleet Bank of Maine executives. Maine National executives would be out of work.

"If BankAmerica had been the winning bidder, Maine National would still be there," said Samuel Ladd, Maine National's former executive vice president.

The day Fleet was declared the winning bidder was a grim Monday for McGarvey, 52, and Ladd, 50, both of whom had joined Maine National at the age of 25. In spite of Maine National's demise, McGarvey and Ladd enjoyed good reputations.

Maine National was a healthy bank with a sick parent. It was actually doing better than other banks in the area, even showing a profit in 1990. But the bank was seized by regulators because its earnings were offset by the tremendous losses of parent firm Bank of New England, which had purchased Maine National in 1985.

When federal regulators took over Bank of New England, they even let Maine National's 10 executives continue to run the bank while they searched for an acquirer. This was a first in bank takeovers — the feds had always stepped in and run seized banks themselves.

The grim Monday gave way to a promising Tuesday for McGarvey and Ladd. On the morning of April 23, McGarvey got a call from Owen Wells, an attorney for Elizabeth Noyce, the Maine philanthropist whose ex-husband was a co-inventor of the semiconductor. Wells said Noyce was interested in putting up the money to start a local bank.

"Wayne (McGarvey) actually came in my office and said we'd been invited to breakfast the next Monday," recalled Ladd.

"And we kind of joked, 'Gee, we're out of work. Let's go,'" Ladd said.

It was over that breakfast that plans for the Maine Bank & Trust Company began to take shape. On June 16, McGarvey filed applications to form the bank with the Maine Superintendent of Banking and the Federal Depositors Insurance Corporation.

The plan for the bank lists McGarvey as president and chief executive officer and Ladd as executive vice president and chief administrative officer.

McGarvey and Ladd continued to work at Maine National until the FDIC granted final approval for Fleet's Bank of New England purchase. On Friday, July 12, they worked their last day there. On the following Monday, McGarvey and Ladd moved into Maine Bank & Trust's temporary offices on the eighth floor of the Key Bank building.

And while the rest of Maine National's executives joined the ranks of the unemployed that Monday, McGarvey and Ladd were starting their own bank.

Banking on experience

On July 18, Wayne McGarvey and Samuel Ladd sat in a conference room of their temporary office, where the walls are bare and the furniture is arbitrarily placed.

The men wore almost identical red striped ties with their blue suits and it lent to the effect that they were on the same team. Earlier that day, the bankers had called a press conference to announce the formation of Maine Bank & Trust Company. And the message they pitched at the press conference earlier that day was that as far as banking went, they were the home team.

But before they can start competing with the banks from away, the Maine Superintendent of Banking and the Federal Depositors Insurance Corporation must approve Maine Bank & Trust.

Maine Superintendent of Banking H. Donald DeMatteis said the application will be judged on whether the bank has sufficient capital, the strength of its management team and its business plan.

"We should score very high in each of those categories," said McGarvey. Noyce will fork out nearly \$7 million to start the bank, exceeding the \$5 million minimum start up required by Maine law. McGarvey, Ladd and two other directors of the bank will also be part owners, but Noyce is putting up "more than 90 percent" of the initial capital, said McGarvey.

Since the management team has a total of 114 years banking experience, McGarvey expects to rate high in the experience category as well. McGarvey said he "can't come up with a scenario" in which either the feds or the state banking regulators wouldn't give the bank the green light.

Said DeMatteis: "I don't see any negatives on the surface." DeMatteis will accept comments from the public concerning the bank through mid-August.

McGarvey said the first branch of the bank could open as soon as this October. He said the main office of the bank will open in downtown Portland, and that the exact location could be announced within two weeks. The bank will initially employ about 20 people, McGarvey said.

Within the first nine months of opening the main office, McGarvey said the bank will also open branches in South Portland and Falmouth. McGarvey added that the bank will focus on southern Maine, but that it may expand to other sections of the state.

For the main office as well as subsequent branches, McGarvey said there was a "higher probability" that Maine Bank & Trust would purchase vacant bank buildings rather



The Maine Bank & Trust Company directors (left to right): Roger Woodman, Wayne McGarvey, Henry Brooks and Samuel Ladd. CBW/Tonec Harbert

than build banks from scratch. A number of Fleet's newly acquired branches are so close to original Fleet branches that the bank is closing some. In downtown Portland, for example, Fleet now has three branches within a stone's throw of one another. Financial analysts have speculated that Fleet will close at least one and possibly two of the branches.

Customers at Maine Bank & Trust's yet-to-be pinpointed branches will choose from a full range of retail, commercial and trust banking services, including checking and savings accounts and ATM machines.

And who will those customers be?

As Stephen Hirshon, a financial analyst with Maine Securities Corp. said, "Banking is a relationship business."

McGarvey and Ladd expect Maine National customers to follow them to their new bank. "I think we'll have a lot of our friends and former customers that will follow us," said Ladd.

But the bankers aren't planning to get by with a little help from their friends alone. They've selected Falmouth's Roger Woodman to be chairman of the board of Maine Bank & Trust.

Woodman is everything you could ask for in a chairman of the board: he's well connected, well respected and well-off. Woodman is the former owner of Campbell, Payson & Noyes insurance agency, which he sold in 1986. Along with being a director of Maine National for more than 20 years, Woodman has been a member of the boards of the Maine Medical Center, the Portland Museum of Art, United Way of Greater Portland and Guy Gannet Publishing Co. People with big bank accounts gather in those boardrooms, and a number of them are bound to transfer their accounts to Woodman's fledgling bank.

But the trend for banks in Maine has been for the giants to merge with other giants. With its measly \$7 million, can Maine Bank & Trust buck that trend?

McGarvey said the \$7 million of initial capital in the bank will be leveraged into about \$125 million worth of loans over the first five years. "Huge corporate borrowers wouldn't be supported by our capital," McGarvey said. "But everything else is our business."

Ladd and McGarvey are also banking on some unwitting Fleet customers switching to their local alternative. "A lot of customers have ended up with a bank that wasn't the bank they opened their account with," said Ladd. "The bigger you get, the more personalized service disappears. Customers become numbers."

With out-of-state banks, added McGarvey, "Even if decisions aren't made out-of-state, the policy guidelines are generally so rigid that the *de facto* decisions have been made somewhere else."

Of course, Portland does have a Maine-owned bank, namely Peoples Heritage Bank. But Noyce said a new bank was still needed because "in our capitalist system we think two choices are better than one."

Portland's Tony Payne, who owns a Portland advertising and marketing agency and who has advised the Maine Bank & Trust group, characterized Peoples Heritage as "suffering the hangover of the '80s." Peoples' latest headache came on July 18, when the bank posted a second-quarter loss of \$5.6 million, the fourth loss in a row for the bank. Payne and others maintain that when a bank is burdened with bad real estate and construction loans it made in the past, it is less likely to make new loans.

"No bank that was active in the '80s isn't using a lot of its human resources on loans that have gone badly," said John Menario, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Peoples. "Maine Bank & Trust has the advantage of using all their human resources for new business and good business." Menario added that this quarterly loss is the lowest in the last four quarters and that Peoples hopes to be breaking even again by the third or fourth quarter of this year.

Ever the home-team player, McGarvey pledged that the bank would "play a strong role in the revitalization of downtown Portland." After all, McGarvey said the bank will have downtown headquarters and that banks tend to do business in "concentric circles" from their locations. But when asked if there would be a specific lending policy applied to downtown businesses, McGarvey said they would be rated on the same criteria as businesses from other areas.

Control Issues

Although McGarvey pledges to distribute money to downtown Portland, some financial pundits are concerned about how the capital investment is distributed among the bank's directors.

Hirshon raised an eyebrow over Noyce making more than 90 percent of the initial investment. "That's not the way I'd go about it," said Hirshon. "I would think there would be some questions about that much control. They want tight control and not a lot of investors looking over their shoulder so they can run it unencumbered."

"I don't know why there is concern," said Noyce, who acknowledged she lacked banking expertise but added she would defer to the experience of the other directors in banking decisions.

McGarvey said there were "no drawbacks" to Noyce owning such a large share of the bank. On the contrary, McGarvey said the biggest obstacle to starting a bank is capitalizing it, and that contribution will expedite the process. If McGarvey and Ladd had to raise the start-up capital by driving all over Maine hitting people up for money, they said it would take them as long as nine months to raise the money and that there would be a good chance they'd fail.

DeMatteis said Noyce's share of the ownership would not be weighed in the state's evaluation. "If a person has the resources, that's not a problem with us," he said.

And whether the money comes from a Maine philanthropist like Noyce or a devil worshipper from out of state, Portland stands to benefit.

Fresh capital, even if it's only \$7 million, will have a positive impact on area borrowers.

"It helps create opportunity," Hirshon said. "People have fewer places to turn today because traditional opportunities have diminished. Their friendly loan officer may be out of a job. To the degree that there will be new capital and more opportunities to make a decision if something is bankable, it is good for the community."

Peoples' Menario welcomed the "healthy competition" from the new bank and agreed that its "a very positive move for the consumers of Maine."

McGarvey predicted that the bank will be profitable within four years. But who's to say if Maine Bank & Trust Company is successful it won't be gobbled up by an out-of-state company as well?

The people running the bank... Elizabeth Noyce: "We are not doing this to attract a buyout. I don't think in my lifetime it will happen."

Wayne McGarvey: "They can only buy if someone is willing to sell. This is not a group that is willing to sell anything."

Samuel Ladd: "That's not the object of setting up this bank. It's really a local bank owned by local Maine people."

Andy Newman is News Editor of Casco Bay Weekly.

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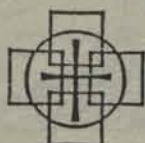
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OUT OF WORK

Continued from front page

As we all know, there are a number of ways of finding employment on your own. I have tried them all, and have come to despise them all.

Most people start looking for work by reading the classified section of the daily newspaper. It's my experience that you can find more work by reading the comics.

Another way to find a job is by word of mouth. This works pretty well, sometimes. (However, I have listened — I have read lips, even — but none of the mouths I've been in contact with lately have mouthed the words "Job, here.")

Then there's the shotgun method — write a snappy cover letter and send it off with a copy of your resume to every business, institution, foundation, corporation and hot dog stand in the western world.

I did this. It gave me a great sense of universal connectedness, but I didn't get any offers. Also, I tasted postage stamp glue for days.

There are a bunch of self-help books out there devoted to the subject of finding a job. Perhaps the best such book is Richard Bolles' "What Color is Your Parachute?", a talky, whimsically illustrated book that helps its readers access the "hidden job market."

I read it. The basic idea is that you approach a business, identify some gap in its operation that only you can fill, and then inform the manager or owner of that business that you're ready to negotiate a salary.

Personally, I think that Bolles got the idea from reading "Dick, the Match Boy" by Horatio Alger. Life should only be that simple.

If worse comes to worst, you can drive around looking for "Help Wanted" signs. This is much like playing Russian roulette with a loaded gun: everybody's a winner. Just take my word for it. If you absolutely must have a job, this may be the way to go. Some of these easy-to-get jobs are almost bearable. Most of them are hell on earth.

Of course, you can always join the Navy. I did that once, too. I don't recommend it.

So much for finding work on your own. The alternative is to let somebody else find a job for you.

There are a bunch of ways to go about this. The least expensive method is the "Sign That Kid Up" model: let some temporary-help outfit place you in a business where your clean clothes, winning smile and especially keen attitude will win you a permanent position.

I tried this. After stuffing envelopes at various locations over a few months, I was finally given a chance to prove myself at the (now defunct) Maine National Bank — a long-term stint as a data processor.

I worked next to a woman who was the common-law wife of a backwoods motorcycle hood. Our immediate supervisor just happened to be yet another common-law wife of yet another backwoods motorcycle hood.

**"There's a tendency
sometimes to think of unemployment
just in terms of numbers.
We want to focus people's awareness
on the effects of
unemployment on people."**

Al Leighton

They had a lot in common: the occasional black eye from their boyfriends, a deep and enduring love of Harley Davidson motorcycles, and an instinctive hatred for sarcastic, college-educated sissies like me.

They often talked about this hatred in my presence, how I was the most sarcastic, college-educated sissy they had ever seen, how I should be slapped — how I would be slapped when Johnny or Jimmy was around to see that I didn't slap back.

It was a very interesting experience. Depressed about having "blown" my "big chance" at the bank — and even more depressed by the indescribable weirdness of having received this chain-gang treatment in a posh corporate cubical — I quit. Billy the Banker was no more.

In fact, I quit the temporary-help biz and the whole low-budget, get-a-job scenario. I paid a career counseling outfit down in Portsmouth \$600 to tell me something that I already knew: I want to be a writer. It could have been worse; I could have paid the full fee (\$1500) before getting to that point. (Actually, Snowden let me wriggle out of my contract for humanitarian reasons.)

As bad as all the above has been, it's nothing compared to the brain-numbing pain of just sitting around the house week in and week out, too far into the funk of unemployment to do

anything but watch television. I've done that, too.

And I'm talking daytime television, here — soap operas and game shows.

Truly, unemployment is a debilitating experience.

The cause and the cure

The psychological impact of unemployment is an area of study that has only just begun to bear fruit. Edwin L. Herr, professor of education at Pennsylvania State University, recently completed a 23-year research project which followed a group of workers from high school to maturity, and his findings were briefly reported in the April 9, 1991 *Washington Post*.

According to Herr, most people experience stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression and (eventually) acceptance after losing their jobs — the same stages experienced by someone recovering from the death of a close relative.

Some people, said Herr, lose their jobs and become more aggressive, increase their use of alcohol and other drugs and, in extreme cases, begin to abuse their spouses or children. Some people develop high blood pressure, cardiovascular problems or digestive dysfunction.

The people who appeared to suffer most from job loss were people who had strong attachments to their jobs and viewed work as a source of friendship and self-esteem. The most acute cases were persons who blamed themselves for losing their jobs — even jobs lost through general economic upheaval. "A lot of people," said Herr, "see a job loss as reaffirmation of their lack of self-worth."

That's what the loss of one job can do to one individual. Thousands of such losses in an area the size of Greater Portland can make that depression felt in the homes of people who don't know anyone who is unemployed. According to the Maine Department of Labor, 6.2 percent of employable adults in Cumberland County are now out of work. About 10,000 of your neighbors are now experiencing the grief Herr described.

Whether you realize it or not — even if you have a good job, even if you think you're comfortable — your well-being is adversely affected by the presence of so many unemployed people in the community. Two organizations, Unemployed Professionals Group (UP Group) and the Committee to Organize the Unemployed (COU) have been working in Greater Portland to alleviate the plight of the unemployed.

UP Group is a white-collar group that held its first official meeting last January. According to UP coordinator Shirley Rosen, the group has been very successful. "We held a seminar on March 15," said Rosen, "and 250 people came. A hundred people had to be turned away." UP Group has provided counseling, organized individual support groups and given workshops in resume writing.

It's an admirable organization, a group that has done a lot of good for a lot of people. They should be commended. However, UP Group fails to address two significant dimensions of unemployment.

First, UP Group, a very helpful organization, is helping people to whom help is much more readily available. The capitalist system is largely set up to serve white-collar workers — executives and "professional people." The system grieves when they grieve. If you need proof of this, consider that all of the studies on the psychological impact of unemployment listed in USM's library were performed on white-collar workers — white male white-collar workers, in fact — as if no one else worked or lost jobs.

Second, UP Group was formed to help a few people get jobs. However, what is desperately needed here is change: a spiritual, societal, governmental change in the way this country deals with unemployment.

The Committee to Organize the Unemployed (COU), a group that was active in Portland during the 1982-83 recession, re-formed back in May. And yes, COU has been working to find jobs for people, but they're doing much more than that.

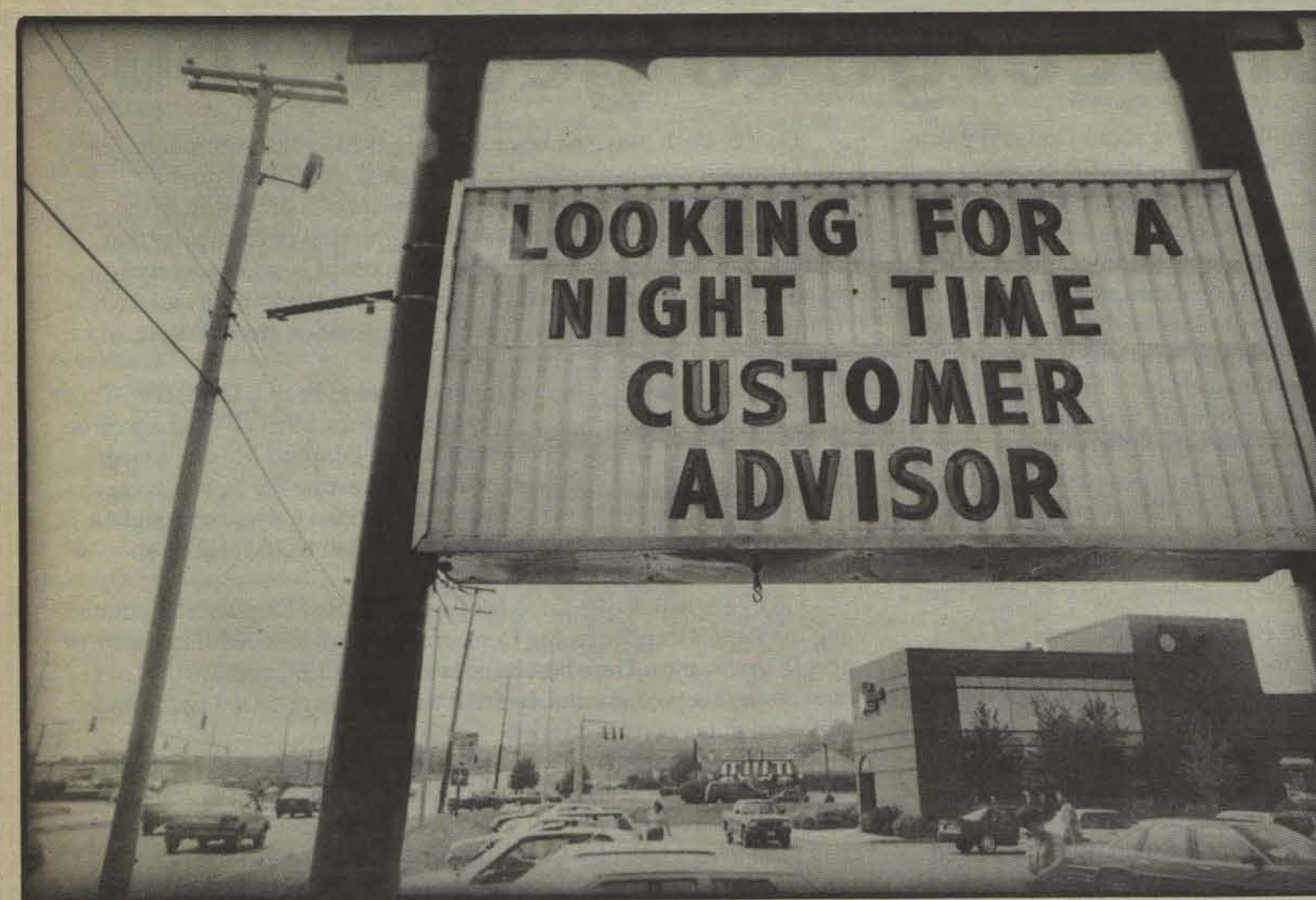
COU is working for that spiritual, societal and governmental change.

COU's coup

Like many COU members, committee co-chair Al Leighton is employed: he teaches law at USM. And like many COU members, Leighton has close ties to UP Group. "A number of our members are on both committees," he said. "Essentially, both committees are working together to produce beneficial changes."

According to Leighton, COU is attempting to satisfy the immediate needs of unemployed people — planning how-to workshops similar to those held by UP Group, talking to business and political leaders about creating jobs and working to secure better health care benefits for everyone. Aside from that, COU's real business is consciousness-raising.

"There's a tendency sometimes to think of unemployment just in terms of numbers," said Leighton. "We want to focus people's awareness on the effects of unemployment on people, on families: people who are losing their homes as a result of unemployment; people who can't afford decent child care for their kids as a result of unemployment; people who are afraid and anxious all the time about what's going to happen to them, what's going to happen to their families. We try to bring that side of the issue to a greater level of awareness."



Opportunity beckons on Gorham Road in South Portland.

CBW/Tonee Harbert

"And we're trying to make unemployed people more aware," he said. "We're emphasizing two areas. One is the immediate needs of people who are out of work — the question of how do we get unemployment benefits, what to do if you're denied unemployment benefits, if you need food, or if you're falling behind on your rent."

"The second area goes beyond just getting by," Leighton said, "and that is how we bring about changes that will help all of us together, how do we get more jobs for people, how do we get more benefits for people who are out of work."

"The answer to that is through political struggle," he said. "And the first step of any political struggle is an organized campaign and an organized movement, developing a political voice for unemployed people, working people and under-employed people. We believe that it's essential for all people to work together to produce changes that will benefit all of us."

If all this sounds quaintly socialistic and unworkable in the No New Deals era, think again. Leighton says that similar organizations have recently been successful in other parts of the country.

"In the steel valley of Pennsylvania," he said, "communities have set up a steel authority to have some control over the big manufacturers in the area. They actually keep steel plants open — operated by the authority — as a means of preserving jobs for the people."

According to Leighton, COU did something similar here in Portland back in 1983. "One big victory back then was around the issue of Bath Iron Works," he said. "At the time that BIW moved into Portland, they got millions of dollars in tax breaks. And part of their campaign to build a vote in favor of those tax breaks was to say that they were going to bring thousands of new jobs to Portland. But when they got there, there weren't as many jobs as they had led people to believe."

According to Leighton, there was considerable doubt as to how many of the remaining jobs were actually going to go to Portland residents — if any.

"COU worked with the city," he said, "to put into BIW's contract a clause requiring them to train and hire people in Portland's low-income community — without which there would have been no agreement at all with BIW. They could have just hired anybody from anywhere."

Ultimately, Leighton and COU would like to see the federal government do more for the unemployed. However, the federal government seems disinclined these days to help hard-working, honest, tax-paying American people who are currently unemployed.

"One of the things that we hear from business leaders and politicians," he said, "is that there is no money. That costs too much," they say. "We can't afford it. But we seem to be able to subsidize John Sununu's frequent flying. We seem to be able to bail out the S&L crooks when they get caught. So we believe that the government can afford to help the people of Maine and America, as well as people who can afford \$100,000 campaign contributions."

This is undoubtedly true. However, under the current administrations, such a shift in funding priorities seems unlikely.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch

I have often wished I could afford to hand out \$100,000 campaign contributions. Next to winning undying fame, having

enough money to bankroll shifty politicians is my favorite fantasy.

Lately, I have objectified this fantasy in the possibility of winning the lottery. Now there's a nice job: get rich quick, appear in a couple of obnoxious television commercials and then retire.

Sounds great. Where do I apply? Not the Maine Job Service, surely.

Careful readers will have noted that, in my litany of job search debacles, I have left out the Job Service. There's a reason for this: I've never actually tried it before. I went there the other day to find a part-time job, something that would pay enough to underwrite my lottery scam, among other things.

And what did I find at the Maine Job Service?

Let me be blunt. After registering with the front desk, I sat down at a microfiche reader and scanned the available jobs. At one point, my name was called by a man who said that he'd put my file back on the stack to give me more time to look at the 'fiche.

About an hour or so after I finished looking at the 'fiche, I began to notice that nobody else was waiting more than five minutes to see a job placement counselor. Bemused, I went to the front desk and inquired.

It turned out that my helpful friend — the one who wanted to make sure that I had plenty of time to look at the 'fiche — had placed my file under the file rack instead of in it.

I'm sure he meant well.

Eventually I saw a placement counselor, who very politely informed me that there was not much work available for someone with my background — Surprise! — and that I would have to take a position in some other field.

At my insistence, she set up an interview for a telemarketing position that I didn't want, to work hours that I couldn't work, at a location that I couldn't reach without buying a second car that I couldn't afford.

I went to the interview. I didn't get the job. I wouldn't have taken it in any event.

What will I do now? I think I'll just keep writing. Maybe I'll write bestsellers and become famous, like Sidney Sheldon or Danielle Steel. It beats working.

Or maybe I'll win the lottery. That would certainly boost my morale.

W.D. Cutlip punches a clock that punches back.

Unemployed?

For more information about COU,
call Tom Kane of Portland West at
775-0105.

For more information about UP
Group, call Shirley Rosen of Maine Job
Service at 879-4150.

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Time for George to get curious

Senator George Mitchell, who built a lecture about God and patriotism into a career as Senate majority leader, now has the opportunity to do something about the Iran-Contra scandal that goes far beyond humiliating Oliver North for the television cameras.

Evidence is mounting that the roots of this Republican scandal lie in dark soil indeed: a covert effort by the Reagan campaign in the fall of 1980 to prevent President Carter from winning the release of the hostages then being held at the U.S. Embassy in Teheran.

For a decade, the mainstream mythmakers have huffed that it's all a lunatic-fringe conspiracy theory. But a mountain of evidence has amassed around meetings held during the fall of 1980 in various European capitals between Iranian representatives and various officials of the Reagan campaign — notably the late William Casey, then campaign manager and later CIA director. There is even circumstantial evidence that George Bush himself may have attended such a meeting in Paris.

A Reagan-Khomeini deal would explain why the hostages were sprung at the very moment Reagan took the oath of office in 1981. And it would explain how Reagan's inner circle first got mixed up with secret arms sales to the Iranians.

Now we even have an admission of sorts from Reagan himself, noted Christopher Hitchens in *The Nation*. Reagan told a reporter last month that he "did some things to try the other way" — that "other way" being pre-election conspiring with the Iranians. Reagan denied personal contact with the Khomeini government, but said information on what his subordinates did was still "classified."

What Reagan's subordinates, including Bush, may have done is violate the Logan Act, which bans private citizens from undermining the U.S. government by cutting private deals with foreign governments.

George Bush played a key role in the 1980 Reagan campaign. He could not survive as president if such a deal really went down.

But the truth may never emerge for want of momentum in the congressional inquiry. The scandal lacks the kind of credibility that comes from having a powerful political sponsor — a Democrat of national stature standing before the cameras at the Capitol and demanding a full inquest and a complete explanation from Reagan and Bush.

George Mitchell owes it to Jimmy Carter to be that Democrat. Carter paved the way for Mitchell's Senate career by appointing Edmund Muskie as secretary of state, creating the Senate vacancy Mitchell filled. Had Carter not sought a

Mainer to help solve the hostage crisis, Mitchell would still be an obscure federal judge.

George Mitchell owes it to his party to be that Democrat. By imitating the Republican Party, the Democrats have descended into a state of torpid irrelevance. Their best hope is to bet the 1992 presidential election on the hostage scandal, but that will only happen if a party leader with real guts makes it happen.

George Mitchell owes it to Maine to be that Democrat. Mainers thought they were giving the nation a majority leader of vision and courage, not a cynical old pol who knows when to sneak a senatorial pay raise in as a late-night amendment.

Relentless pursuit of the truth about Reagan, Bush and the Iranians would be as quintessentially Maine as was Margaret Chase Smith staring down the McCarthyites. Whether the truth exonerates or impeaches Bush, only the pursuit of that truth will prove George Mitchell the man he bills himself to be. (DMK)

editorial

Portland revaluation is a fiasco

By Pamela W. Quiers

I recently attended a tax discussion meeting of the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Association, which was anything but reassuring. Messrs. Ganley, O'Donnell and a representative from the assessors' firm mouthed the same old platitudes. However, as the adage goes, delayed justice is no justice. A grace period or more payments per annum do not solve the basic problem of where the money is coming from to pay the proposed new taxes. As for the Circuit Breaker Program, it resembles a Band-Aid applied to a man whose leg is all but severed; it doesn't even cover one trip to the grocery store in most instances. Moreover, it is disgusting to hear City Council members contend, as I have heard some do, that sharing their constituents' concerns is a conflict of interest. Where, may I inquire, does their interest lie?

The answer to this dilemma does not lie in the city spending another \$1,000,000 for a second opinion. It lies in a complete change in the system of raising city revenues. The first step is to elect legislators from the cities who will speak out loud and clear to offset the heavily weighted rural Legislature — most of whose members hail from small communities which hold town meetings and set their own budgets — and who, moreover, will see that state-mandated programs are state-funded.

At worst revaluation is a fiasco, at best a complex game, where only the players on one side understand the rules. The results leave us with a situation not unlike that of the British, when the poll tax took effect. Commercial properties are valued partially on earnings or lack thereof. The private homeowner is not given the same consideration.

Although there are root causes of the current business climate here which are beyond our control, the proximate causes are gross lending and appraisal mismanagement on the part of local banks, and the destructive decisions made by the council

and other local boards and officials. As for the chimeric projects of so-called developers and business leaders, which both banks and city management approved, the sole motive was greed rather than urban improvement. I moved here in 1976 from New York City; since then I have seen a nice little town turned into a jungle of half-empty tall buildings, which were never viable for a city of this size. The eyes of the establishment have been bigger than their stomachs, and we are now being asked to pay for their mistakes.

Obviously, the result of present policies will be to create a new mass of street people.

For a start, taxpayers have the right to see or to learn the following:

(1) The impact study made by the city government prior to deciding on such significant tax increases during a period of depression when many are out of work or just managing to keep the wolf from the door.

(2) The impact on the business community, when previously expendable cash goes not to it, but into the city coffers. The impact on homeowners now just squeaking through when they are forced to sell at depressed prices or lose their homes.

(3) A copy of the report of the citizen watchdog committee we elected a few years back to monitor city spending. What has this group accomplished? Was it co-opted or neutered by the council, which did not want it in the first place? Do we ever get to select a new committee which will be more aggressive in the pursuit of its mandate?

(4) A list of rebated properties, e.g. BIW and the Nickelodeon. How long are these rebates in place? What is their cash total?

(5) What is the total of the principal and interest of the bonded indebtedness of Portland? What projects are involved?

(6) Is a copy of the line-item budget of the city available for distribution to all taxpayers? If not, why not?

(7) Were these out-of-state assessors up to speed concerning Portland neighborhoods and other local factors? It's doubtful, when we hear it said that Munjoy Hill and the islands are said to be undervalued. The Hill is certainly not an area of stately mansions save, perhaps, for a few on the Prom, and the year-round residents of the Island are a group comprised in the main of hard-working fisherman and retirees. The islands with big money lie far to the north of Portland. One can only lay the blame on city officials, who gave the assessor his marching orders and advice.

(8) What will revaluation do to rents? There is already a dearth of rentals affordable to a great number of citizens. Both tenants and landlords face a problem. Tenants cannot afford higher rents, and in many instances, landlords are unable to raise them to help pay the new taxes because they have extended leases.

(9) How many commercial properties are now empty and/or tax-delinquent? What is the dollar amount? Ditto for private properties and multiple dwellings?

(10) How many private homes are now on the market on the mainland and the islands? What is the city's estimate of the number six months hence? What are the city's plans for private properties which become tax-delinquent? Auctioning them off for peanuts will not solve any problems. It will merely displace one strapped family with another and lower values. And we are all well aware of the problem the government has encountered in selling off defunct savings and loan assets.

Pamela Quiers, 76, lived in New York, Kansas City and Minneapolis before buying a house on Munjoy Hill for \$13,000 that is now valued at more than \$60,000.

citizen

letters

Revaluation scrutiny

Thank you for reporting on Portland's revaluation and tax increase (CBW 7.11.91). I only hope your coverage of this crisis will continue. The revaluation by itself deserves closer scrutiny. And we need to know more about the state valuation of Portland Mr. Ganley described.

From my own limited inquiry I find the appraisal company's procedures to be either seriously flawed or woefully incomplete:

■ The appraisal firm compared all properties with those recently sold, normally a reasonable approach. But recently, auctions and foreclosures are as common as voluntary sales. Too few sales means the appraisers have been forced to compare buildings that have nothing in common. It also means they had too little data to estimate overall rates of change.

■ The city was divided into areas so large that individual streets and similar buildings were never properly reviewed or compared. Portland's high-end, historic properties are frequently just a block or two away from low-income, multiple dwellings, but they still should be valued differently. My building was compared with one on Sherman Street and another on the west end of Pine; my "neighborhood" begins at Commercial Street and ends at Deering Oaks Park!

■ The survey's primary objective was to equalize values, but it creates more new discrepancies than it corrects. Map out two blocks in any direction and fill in the proposed values. Properties that have sold in the eight years since the last revaluation will be easy to spot. Their value will be at least 30 percent higher than those that haven't. When the values for buildings of the same age, size, style, materials and location vary by as much as \$40,000, equalization clearly has not been achieved.

When the city hired these appraisers, no one could have known how wildly the real estate market would fluctuate, reverse and stall. But we have all seen it happen right in the middle of this reappraisal. The Portland Taxpayers Association would be wise to reconsider where they

fix their aim. The revaluation will be with us a lot longer than this year's budget. If it isn't challenged now, these inaccuracies will be fixed for years. This project has neither valid substantiation nor public support for its conclusions. It is a very easy target.

Mr. Ganley's remarks about the state's value for our city as a whole deserve a fuller hearing. I for one want to know a lot more about this state revaluation. How is their total valuation of the city computed? How could it go up when all of our property has decreased in value? Has every other town's value gone up along with ours? How can we challenge this state revaluation? Isn't the city entitled to a hearing?

I believe that city hall does hold the key to overcoming this tax situation. The city can demand that this revaluation be properly performed before it is accepted (and before the appraisal firm gets paid). And the city can fight the state's unfair values for us all.

David J. Garrity
Portland



Property tax inequities

Thank you for the fine article and editorial on the revaluation of Portland property (CBW 7.11.91). The value of my land on Peaks Island increased 600 percent and the house 200 percent.

In 1980, the taxes on this property were \$575 a year. After the property was revaluated in 1983, taxes jumped to \$924. Between 1984-1990 (the period of no revaluation) the taxes increased to \$1,363. This year my taxes will total \$2,017 and next year, if there are no additional increases, my tax bill will total \$2,622. Inflation increased about 50 percent between 1980-1989. My Portland property tax bill went up 121 percent. In the period from 1989 to 1992 it will have increased another 105 percent.

Why? The road in front of my home is dirt. My house is not connected to a sewer system. I have no sidewalks, curbs or gutters. The beach across the road from my house is contaminated. Junk cars litter the island. Dogs run loose. Codes are not enforced, etc.

City Councilor Esther Clennott points her fingers at Augusta and Washington and charges that Portland taxes go up because of cutbacks in funding from these sources. According to the city finance office, in 1990 Portland did receive \$1

million dollars less in state and federal funding than it did in 1980. But the finance office also says overall annual revenues in the City of Portland increased from \$53 million to \$106 million during the same period of time.

City Manager Ganley also points his finger at Augusta, claiming the state has been overvaluing Portland by half a billion dollars a year. If this is true, shouldn't he be recommending a legal action to correct the situation?

I believe there are gross inequities in the new valuations which must be corrected. I also feel a large percentage of the increase in all property values is due to highly inflated appraisals and lenient lending policies of the banks in the 1980s. The bank appraisals led to sales and those sales elevated the fair market value of all property. This period of abnormally high prices must be discounted when valuing our property. Gone are the speculators who bought and sold property at ever-escalating prices. Gone, most likely, are many of the banks' lending officers who approved appraisals for \$100,000 summer cottages. Gone are the developers who took the profits and left behind empty buildings and a trail of unpaid city property tax bills.

To pay for the delinquent tax bills of those the city once so fondly embraced, to cover up poop planning policies, and to camouflage huge increases in spending, is the city purposefully keeping property values high? The higher the valuations the less need to commit political suicide by further increasing the tax rate. A thorough investigation needs to be conducted to learn how Portland can be saddled with huge amounts of debt and still need to raise its tax rates when revenues have doubled. I fervently hope all Portland and Island property owners will attend the city council meeting Aug. 5, when the subject of the tax rate is due to be discussed.

Charlotte Scot
Peaks Island



Massage & choice

In the days before patriarchy, when the paternity of a child was considered inconsequential, holy women lived in temples and received male visitors. There, sexual acts were considered sacred, and the women who bestowed those gifts were highly esteemed.

I find myself moving through a variety of responses to Andy Newman's article on massage (CBW 6.13.91), from prudish shock and distaste to curious enchantment.

Why is it that men haven't thought of such a luxurious enterprise, where we women might be pampered and seduced in a bathtub? It is a tribute to the compassionate, empathetic awareness of women that such an occupation exists. The history going back 8,000 or more years to those sacred temples, and on into the still Victorian '90s, technique changes matter less than the judgmental labels (sacred or profane) we attach to the women's practice. It is women who are oppressed when sexual art is named profane.

Women who choose freely such a life are no more victims (or victimizers) than women who work at Woolworth or the beauty parlor. Assuming women turn to massage parlors out of desperation for work is a very anti-sex attitude. Perhaps they prefer it to being a manager at Arby's, or in the personnel department of UNUM. There's no inherent immorality or oppression in genital massage that doesn't also exist in other fields of work.

Fear of AIDS seems to be justifying a renewed puritanism in New England. Morality without mindfulness. How dull. If we don't hold onto our little freedoms, soon women will be wearing veils and robes, and the hope that we might one day be free to bare our breasts will go up in a fog to southern France.

Jeny Yasi
Peaks Island

Police salute

In response to the article "Asian gang hype revisits Portland" (CBW 5.20.91), I appreciate your task of informing the public. However, according to your article, an action that qualifies as a criminal act has been shifted into one of racial tension between the Asian community and the Portland Police Department.

As a minority, the branding of the entire police department contradicts with my conscience. For the past decade, if I am not mistaken, there hasn't been a single administration, other than that of the so-called Media Mike, that has come out openly and vigorously to confront a racist organization (the Ku Klux Klan). The reality of the article seems to exist in a moral vacuum; therefore, I disagree with whatever message it conveys to the Asian community.

A simple fight and

organized violence differ in action as well as interpretation. What took place among those young men qualifies for gang violence. The initial fight which took place on Sunday, May 26, 1991, was understandable as an emotional reaction; but when these young men came back after over 36 hours, it became a rational, organized form of violence which meets the standards of gang violence.

The people being referred to in the article are not a gathering of heterogeneous elements unknown to each other; therefore, the police response was appropriate and falls within the reasonableness of law enforcement.

The subjects in the article being called Asians is not new, they have been called so all along, you call them so, everybody calls them so, and they will be called so past your lifetime. Blacks, Asian, Jews, Italians, etc. have been called so. Therefore, this should not become an issue to divert us away from the real subject.

It is amazing to see that people who qualify for a criminal activity are made to look like heroes under the name of protecting Asian branding.

Where are we going to draw the line between beauty contest and law enforcement? The paper spent so much energy and time describing how Lt. Mark Dion was dressed and how handsome Samran looks due to his physical features. I think this was a little beyond "off the point." The good looks and categorizing them as Asians do not make these particular individuals' behavior lesser of a criminal activity. If the police department does not take any action, this will look like "let the Asians kill themselves," and this is misleading. The branding issue at this point becomes irrelevant because the actors had already made a distinction among themselves: "us and the Vietnamese guys."

I salute the police action and I am sure this will send a strong signal to those who think they can start creating violent groups among their communities. I urge the responsible police officers to keep their eyes open and not let the racial intimidations frustrate their effort to enforce the law. If such situations are not attended to, we may regret it and it will be too late and too much to accommodate, not only for the Asians, but for the entire population.

Moses A. K. Seburya
Portland



Casco Bay Weekly

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Entertainment Weekly

Submissions for Entertainment Weekly sections must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to publication. Send your Calendar and Listings Information to: Ellen Liburt, Casco Bay Weekly, 551A Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

The Casco Bay Weekly Calendar: 10 days and more ways to be informed, get involved and stay amused.

25 THURSDAY

◆ Canoe paddle? If you can, Scarborough Marsh Nature Center is offering canoe tours allowing you to discover the vast array of wildlife and plants, as well as the fascinating history of Scarborough Marsh, as you paddle along the meandering Dunstan River. Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m., and daily from 10-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$6 adult members, \$5 members' children, \$7 adult non-members, \$6 child non-member. Deduct \$1.50 if you're using your own canoe. Reach the center by taking Route 1 to Scarborough and turning east onto Pine Point Road toward Pine Point Beach — also marked Route 9 West. SMNC is half a mile on the left. Call 883-5100 for further details.

26 FRIDAY

◆ For opera lovers, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival is offering a concert featuring baritone Kurt Ollmann, soprano Bonnie Scarpelli and mezzo-soprano Barbara Ann Martin performing Mozart opera arias from "Don Giovanni," "Cosi Fan Tutti" and "Nozze de Figaro" with the Mozart Festival Orchestra conducted by festival artistic director Lewis Kaplan. One New York Times review described Ollmann's voice as a "lyric baritone voice of



Aria going to hear these singers Friday, July 26

27 SATURDAY

◆ An update on Bill: Bill Chinnoch, New Jersey's cutting-edge R&B rocker of "The Downtown Tangiers Band" fame, has reunited with former band mates Danny Federici and Gary Talent (of "E Street Band" fame). They'll be recording an album this month for Warner Bros., but you don't have to wait till it comes out to hear Bill. Just drop by Raoul's Roadside Attraction (865 Forest Ave.) tonight at 9, smack down your \$8, and hear the man and his own band — made up of John Kumnick on bass & Tony "Thunder" Smith or Roger Cox on drums — playing what Chinnoch says he does best: "that rock 'n' roll thing." Call 773-6886 for details.

28 SUNDAY

◆ Senior Sundays: Scarborough Marsh Nature Center is offering a nature presentation and leisurely walk for those 50 and over from 2-3:30 p.m. today (and also Aug 11 & 25). (See Thursday 7.25 above for directions.) The cost is \$2 for members, \$3 for non-members. For more information, call 883-5100.



unusual beauty and cultivation." Also included in the program are Romances by Robert Schumann, performed by oboist Ronald Roseman and pianist Martin Canin; and "Ballade" by Frank Martin, played by pianist Emma Tahmisanian and flutist Robert Willoughby. Tonight at 8 in the First Parish Church, at the corner of Maine Street and Bath Road, Brunswick. Tickets are \$12. Call 725-3895 to make your reservations.

29 MONDAY

◆ The Bates Dance Festival, now in its ninth year at Bates College in Lewiston, presents three weeks of public events — many of them free of charge — starting today. The festival also offers daily classes in modern, ballet, jazz, improvisational, African and other dance styles and topics. For a preview & schedule of festival events, see page 23. For more info, call the Bates Office of Summer Programs at 786-6077 on weekdays. ◆ Getting Lucky at Zootz: Tonight at 9 you can hear the rich, buttery voice of South Africa's number one reggae star, Lucky Dube, and his 13-piece band. Dube's third reggae album, "Slave," has gone platinum, selling an incredible 500,000+ in South Africa alone — an astonishing feat in a country with only 30 million inhabitants and heavy restrictions on record-selling. Dube describes reggae as "the one and only way of sending a message to the masses... I wanted to sing reggae for a long time because I felt it in me, but outside forces did not want to hear it and they kept it from happening... I finally just could not keep silent with that message and made the decision that reggae would be my life as a musician." Zootz is located at 31 Forest Ave., Portland. Admission is \$9. Call 773-8187 for further information, mohn.

30 TUESDAY

◆ Art for kids: Portland Museum of Art is offering a "Children's Art Class: Waterlilies," the first in a three-day series that begins with a look at the exhibition "Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: The Collector's Passion," and allows students ages 7-12 to explore the use of pastel and watercolor. These classes will be held today, July 31 &

31 WEDNESDAY

Cheap thrill: Stonecoast voices How long has it been since someone read you a story? Think back and remember a familiar voice rising and falling, gathering strength as it rushed through your mind... shaping the banks with words and ideas, depositing alluvial images along the shores, forming the riverbed of consciousness. Now you can hear that river again as the faculty of USM Portland's Stonecoast Writers' Conference gives a series of readings: July 28: Kenneth Rosen and Carolyn Chute (with a reception following) July 29: Denise Gess and Robley Wilson July 30: Susan Shetterley and Betsy Sholl Aug. 1: Roy Gallant and Barry Sanders (in Portland Public Library Auditorium, 5 Monument Square) Aug. 2: David Bradley (PPL Auditorium) Aug. 5: Martin Jones & Amy MacDonald Aug. 6: Peggy Fisher & Sena Jeter Naslund Aug. 7: Barbara Hope & Deborah Digges Aug. 8: Stephen Dobyns So sit back, close your eyes and let the voices of Stonecoast stir up your cerebral silt. All readings will take place at 7:30 p.m. in USM Portland's Luther Bonney Auditorium, unless otherwise noted. They are free and open to the public. For more info on readings (or a host of free afternoon and evening lectures and panels on topics from literary genres to women writing), call 780-4076.

August 1, from 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., in the museum's gardens (weather permitting). One-day fee: \$9 for PMA members, \$12 for general public. Three-day fee: \$25 for members, \$35 for the public. Call 775-6148 to register.

1 THURSDAY

◆ Making an impression at the museum: Tonight at 5:15, Portland Museum of Art

disturbing, raw and lysergic. Caspar Stracke of Kohn, Germany, a luminary in the young cinema scene there, shocked audiences with his beautiful, anarchic, black and white "Kopf. Motor. Kopf." Find the Wherehouse at 29 Forest Ave., Portland. For the rest of the story, call 874-9770.

2 FRIDAY

◆ Making an impression at the museum: Tonight at 5:15, Portland Museum of Art



Curator of Collections Martha Severens will give a gallery talk on "Impressionism and Post-

Impressionism: The Collector's Passion." She will discuss how the Impressionists broke through traditional thinking and how the Post-Impressionists expanded on their originality. This gallery talk is free. Severens will give the same lecture Aug. 2 at 12:30 p.m., when it will be free with museum admission. The museum is located at 7 Congress Square. For more information, call 773-2787. ◆ Elvis sighted at mall: Did you know that Elvis' favorite food was

fried peanut butter & banana? That Elvis was the most photographed person ever? That he had a twin brother, Jesse, stillborn 35 minutes before Elvis was born? If you find these trifles compelling, you may also be interested to know that the national touring Elvis Presley Museum will be making its first appearance in Maine from August 1-4 at the Maine Mall. The museum includes 18 showcases of Elvis' jewelry, his personal gun collection, his wardrobe — including one of his famed stage jumpsuits and an elaborate concert belt — and his 1977 Cadillac

Seville, among other memorabilia. Is Elvis still alive, or has he been returned to sender? Call 828-2063 for more clues.

3 SATURDAY

◆ Eyes in the back of her head: Memory, knowledge and the spiritual all come together in "Views of the Head From Behind," an exhibit of works by sculptor Celeste Roberge at Dean Velentgas Gallery (60 Hampshire St., Portland). Attend the opening reception tonight from 5-8 and view this series of sculpture — of body or parts of a body — dealing with body and mind. The gallery invites you to sort through these fragments of clay shapes and attempt through personal history to assemble a recognizable past. (Sheesh! As if remembering what you did last Friday night isn't difficult enough...) Gallery hours are Thursday 12-8, Saturday 12-5, Sunday 12-4, and by appointment. Call 772-2042 for info.

4 SUNDAY

◆ Losing your marbles? You have company. Bertram M. Cohen, noted marble collector of Boston, will give a seminar today on "The History, Games and Art of Marbles." Lectures are at 11 and 2; luncheon's at 12:30. At the afternoon session, Thomas Quinn, New York State Marbles Champion of 1939, will demonstrate games and techniques with audience participation. The program costs \$19.50, which includes admission to the Jones Museum of Glass & Ceramics in Douglas Hill, Sebago, where the program will be held. Lectures are \$6 each. Reservations are necessary; call 787-3370 and have a marblesome time.

ZOOTZ
31 FOREST AVE. PORTLAND
FRIDAY JULY 26TH
NOW #1 ON THE COLLEGE RADIO CHARTS
SMASHING PUMPKINS TIX \$15
WITH **BOB HOUSE**
MONDAY JULY 29TH
REGGAE PARTY WITH
LUCKY DUBE
FROM SO. AFRICA TIX \$9

Let the Casco Bay Weekly Talking Menu suggest just the restaurant you've been looking for — or help you rediscover an old favorite. The Talking Menu offers brief descriptions of more than 70 great restaurants throughout the Portland area.
Just call 1-900-680-MENU from any touch-tone phone and follow the simple instructions. After indicating where and what you want to eat, you'll hear brief descriptions of several local restaurants that meet your dining criteria.
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Take the guesswork out of dining.
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JAZZ • great grub • great wine • great music
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• Fri. & Sat. July 26 & 27: The Scott Reeves Band
• Wednesday, July 31: The Scott Oakley Trio
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Saturday, AUGUST 3RD
8:30 pm
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General Admission
Special Guest: HARVEY REID
Tickets available at:
THE RECORD EXCHANGE
OLD PORT, PORTLAND
or send self-addressed, stamped envelope with certified check or money order to: HEPTUNES, Box 752, Hampstead, NH 03841.

BIG SOUNDS FROM ALL OVER
STRING TRIO OF NEW YORK
Friday, July 26 at 8PM
Portland Performing Arts Center • 25A Forest Ave.
Tix \$13 - Call 774-0465
or Amadeus & Gallery Music
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"...he's on to something with 'RENÉE.' The show has many hilarious scenes and songs..." —Steele, Portland Press Herald

EMBASSY PLAYERS PRESENTS

Renée a new Hank Beebe musical

THURS—FRI—SAT at 8 PM Schoolhouse Arts Center, Sebago
SUNDAYS 2 PM through July 28 Lake Village, Rts 114 & 35
Reservations 642-3743/773-1648 Adm \$10 Seniors/Children \$6

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Service ★★★★★
Atmosphere ★★★★★
—Maine Sunday Telegram

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Dinner 5:30 - 9:00
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Entertainment Weekly

Continued from 10-day CALENDAR

SILVER SCREEN

101 Dalmatians Dogs, dogs and more dogs. Disney at its spotted best.

Another You Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder team up together again as a couple of comers who can't stop themselves from lying.

Backdraft Two fire-fighting brothers in Chicago come to terms with the memory of their late fireman father, their resentment toward each other and each other's different approach to the profession during an ongoing arson investigation. DeNiro is a fire-fighting investigator, and Sutherland plays the arsonist. With Robert DeNiro and Donald Sutherland.

Beijing Watermelon A greengrocer in Tokyo overcomes his prejudice of Chinese by helping Chinese students settle in Japan. His unselfish work causes problems for his business and his relations with his family. Subtitled.

Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey More adventures (as if we needed them) in the life and times of Bill & Ted. Starring Alex Winter and Keanu Reeves.

Boyz n the Hood South Central Los Angeles' mean streets is the backdrop for this story about inner-city kids trying to grow up uncathed in an environment riddled with gangs and drugs.

Bye Bye Blues Story of a privileged World War II officer's wife whose life is thrown through a loop when her husband is captured by the Japanese in Singapore and she is forced to return to her native Canada to eke out a living.

City Slickers Three middle-aged New York men — Billy Crystal, Bruno Kirby and Daniel Stern — attempt to recapture lost youth by going on a modern-day cattle drive.

Cyrano de Bergerac Based on Edmond Rostand's epic of unrequited love, this film — the most expensive ever produced in France — stars Gerard Depardieu. English subtitles were translated in verse by author Anthony Burgess (Clockwork Orange, et al).

Doc Hollywood Michael J. Fox stars as a plastic surgeon on his way to Hollywood who gets sidetracked in South Carolina and falls in love.

Dutch Comedy about a man who goes to pick up his girlfriend's son at boarding school to bring him back for Thanksgiving. Stars Ed O'Neill of TV's "Married With Children."

Guilty By Suspicion A disturbing look at government on a witch hunt. The House Un-American Activities Committee takes on Hollywood in 1951, lurching out communists and their sympathizers. With Robert DeNiro and Annette Bening.

Iron & Silk Story of a 13-year-old American boy so taken by his first martial arts movie that he learns to speak Chinese by washing dishes in a Chinatown restaurant and goes on to major in Chinese literature in college. Eventually he travels to mainland China to teach English at a small college and to find the true source of Chinese culture and philosophy.

Jungle Fever Spike Lee's new film about interracial love. Says Lee, "We wanted the two neighborhoods — that black/Italian thing."

La Femme Nikita French thriller in which a woman becomes a secret agent for her country to escape a death sentence for killing a policeman. Then she falls in love and begins to question the morality of her line of work.

Life Stinks Mel Brooks blazes his way into our hearts again, this time as a real estate millionaire whose fortune goes down the drain. Nice slice of life for local developers to see and ponder.

Mobsters Christian Slater and some brat-pack hangers-on star in this 1930s period piece about gangsters in Chicago.

Naked Gun 2 1/2 L.L. Frank Drebin investigates an explosion at a Washington, D.C. energy plant and the case revolves him with his old girlfriend. Starring Priscilla Presley, Leslie Nielsen, George Kennedy and O.J. Simpson.

Point Break Patrick Swayze plays a surfer who likes to rob banks when he's not on his board. Gary Bussey and Keanu Reeves play FBI agents who go undercover in shorts and tans to catch the surfer-banking bank robbers. Now here's a story.

Problem Child 2 Like it says.

Regarding Henry Harrison Ford plays a ruthless New York lawyer with a lousy marriage who is forced to prioritize his life after suffering amnesia in a near-fatal accident. Also stars Annette Bening.

Rocky Horror Based on the popular comic book series, Bill Campbell assumes the title alias in this action tale about a daredevil pilot who, donning a streamlined helmet to hide his identity and strapping a rocket pack to his back, becomes an ally to G-men in their battle against Nazi agents. Story is set in 1938.

Robin Hood Kevin Costner plays the legendary hero of Sherwood Forest in this sweeping epic filmed in England. Among the ensemble are Christian Slater, Morgan Freeman, and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio.

Terminator 2 A bigger more explosive sequel to the 1984 hit. Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as a kindhearted cyborg from the future who does battle this time with another, not-so-kindhearted Terminator.

Larks On A String Set in a Czechoslovakian political labor camp in 1969, this film by Academy Award-winning director Jiri Menzel is a lighthearted look (believe it or not) at people falling in love in a labor camp and being re-educated by the state.

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The Untouchables Kevin Costner plays the legendary hero of Sherwood Forest in this sweeping epic filmed in England. Among the ensemble are Christian Slater, Morgan Freeman, and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio.

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WHAT'S WHERE

General Cinemas

Maine Mall
Maine Mall Road, S. Portland
774-1022

Dates effective July 26-Aug 1
101 Dalmatians (G)
1:15, 3:10, 5:10, 7
Backdraft (R)
9

Mobsters (R)
12:50, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10
Naked Gun 2 1/2 (PG-13)
12:40, 2:50, 5:20, 7:20, 9:25
Regarding Henry (PG-13)
12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

Dutch (PG-13)
12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10, 9:35
Robin Hood (PG-13)
1, 4, 7, 9:55

Problem Child 2 (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40
Rockeater (PG)
5, 7:25, 9:45

Hoyle Clark's Pond
333 Clark's Rd., S. Portland
879-1511

Dates effective July 26-Aug 1
Shows 1-4 Sun-Thurs;
Shows 1-5 Fri & Sat
Thelma & Louise (R)
12:40, 3:40, 7:10, 10

Another You (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10, 12:20
Point Break (R)
12:50, 3:50, 7, 9:40, 12:10

Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (PG)
1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50, 12
Terminator 2 (R)
12:30, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30, 12:15

VI Warshawski (R)
1:40, 4:30, 7:40, 10:20, 12:25
City Slickers (PG-13)
1:10, 4, 6:50, 9:20, 11:50
(6:50 July 27 show replaced by Doc Hollywood)

Boyz n the Hood (R)
1, 3:20, 6:30, 9, 11:30

The Movies
10 Exchange St., Portland
772-9600

Bye Bye Blues
July 24-28
Wed-Fri 7, 9:15
Sat-Sun 1, 7

Guilty By Suspicion
July 27-30
Sat-Sun 3, 9
Mon-Tues 7, 9

Beijing Watermelon
July 31-Aug 4
Wed-Fri 7, 9:30
Sat-Sun 1, 7

Nickelodeon
Temple and Middle streets,
Portland
772-9751

Dates effective July 26-Aug 1
Jungle Fever (R)
1:40, 6:50, 9:30

Iron & Silk (NR)
1:55, 7:15, 9:15
La Femme Nikita (R)
1:50, 7, 9:20

Larks On A String (NR)
2, 7:10, 9:35
Cyrano de Bergerac (PG)
1:30, 6:40, 9:25

Life Stinks (PG-13)
1:20, 7:20, 9:40

Pride's Corner Drive-In
Route 302, Westbrook
797-3154

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Call for times.

STAGE

"Agnes of God" John Pielmeier's provocative drama tells the story of a novice nun who has delivered a child that has mysteriously died. The only person aware of how this may have happened is her Mother Superior, and the only person capable of finding out the truth is a psychiatrist with her own serious doubts about religion. Presented by The Theater Project (School St, Brunswick), July 25, 26, 27 and Aug 1, 2 & 3 at 8 pm. Sunday performance July 28 at 7 pm. Call 729-8564 for info.

"Big River" Mark Twain's great classical novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" comes to the Maine State Music Theatre stage as "Big River," running July 23-Aug 10. Evening performances are nightly at 8 pm, except Sunday and Monday. Matinees are at 2 pm Wed, Fri & Sun first week; Tues, Thurs & Sat third week; Tues, Thurs & Sat third week. Pickard Theatre, Memorial Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. Admission: \$10-\$21. For reservations, call 725-8769.

Comedy at the Cave: Every Thursday at 8 pm, comedians Tim Farrell, Joanne Chessie & Kevin Shone marvel the masses at the Cave (29.5 Forest Ave). Their no-holds-barred, two-hour comedy slug fest will jab, jolt and jostle your humor membranes. Farrell, Chessie & Shone serve up a different show every Thursday, with a diverse mix of audience-suggested improvisations, new sketches and monologues. Serious fun for only \$3. For more info, call 879-0070.

"Fama Sanctitatis", a new play by Gloria Howell, will be presented July 26 & 27 at the Theater Theatre in South Portland (420 Cottage Rd). The story concerns two boyhood friends. One becomes a priest, the other works in some mysterious fashion in international espionage. They come together at a small Catholic mission in Switzerland when an attempted murder is committed. The play will be presented at 8 pm. Tickets are \$7 general admission, \$4 for seniors and adults. Available at the door. For more info, call 871-0186.

"Killing Mr. Withers" Comedy thriller set in Death Valley at The Last Chance Pump & Grille. Though you'll be captive in a seedy diner, you will be served a sumptuous four-course dinner by a rogue's gallery of the shadiest persuasion. Mystery Cafe, Portland's only dinner theater, offers a choice of chicken marsala, vegetarian lasagna, sirloin steak or grilled swordfish with a smoked salmon and pesto cream sauce. Shows every Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, in The Baker's Table banquet room, 434 Fore St in the Old Port. Call 693-3063 or 1-800-834-3063 for reservations and further information.

"The Private Ear" and "The Public Eye" Vintage Repertory Company presents two one-act comedies by Peter Shaffer, author of "Amadeus." July 30, 31 and August 13, 14, 27 and 28. Performances held at 8 pm at Jordan Hall, Temple Ave, Ocean Park, Old Orchard Beach. Tickets: \$9 adults, \$6 seniors and children. For info, call 828-4654.

"Private Lives" Vintage Repertory Company presents Noel Coward's witty, sophisticated comedy about the English leisure class, set in the 1930s. August 6, 7, 20, 21. Performances held at 8 pm, at Jordan Hall, Temple Ave, Ocean Park, Old Orchard Beach. Tickets are \$9 adults, \$6 seniors and children. For more info, call 828-4654.

Russian Puppet Theater Would you like to see puppets made by children in the Soviet Union? This summer, Schoolhouse Arts Center at Sebago Lake presents Valeria Konstantinovna's cultural program telling about theater in the Soviet Union and performing with puppets made by the children there. Audience participation is also included in the fun, and after a lesson on how to work the puppets, volunteers will stage their own puppet play. The show runs Tues & Weds July 30 & 31 and Aug 6, 7 & 7 at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$4. For more info, call 642-3743.

Solo Dance Artist Margie Gillis, hailed by The New York Times for her "angst, ecstasy and earthiness," performs diverse selections from her repertoire. Discussion and reception to follow. August 1 & 2, at 8 pm, in Bates College's Schaeffer Theatre, Lewiston. Adm: \$12/\$7. Advance reservations: 786-6161.

"Stone Soup" Maine State Music Theatre presents its brand-new musical based on the classic American folk tale. The play takes place immediately after the Civil War, and residents of one small town are hording the little food that is left. When a hungry soldier comes to the town, he teaches them his recipe for stone soup — and also teaches them that if they work together and combine their stashes, they will eat well. The musical is appropriate for children 5 and up, and lasts approximately one hour. Performances are at 11 am and 2 pm on July 29. Call 725-8769 for reservations.

■ Continued on page 18



David Emerson, Jane Bergeron and Dorothy Vire rehearse a scene from Noel Coward's "Private Lives."

"The Private Ear" and "The Public Eye" by Peter Shaffer

■ Vintage Repertory Company, Jordan Hall, Old Orchard Beach July 30 & 31 and Aug. 13, 14, 27, 28

There's no doubt about it, the English are witty. Especially when it concerns their own cultural idiosyncracies. They're aware of these idiosyncracies, and capitalize on them by writing wonderfully self-deprecating comedies about them. There are the chestnuts: Shaw's "The Importance of Being Earnest" and Noel Coward's "Private Lives," among others. And of more recent vintage, Peter Shaffer, who is best known as the author of the nutty and flamboyant "Amadeus," has also written two witty one-act comedies called "The Private Ear" and "The Public Eye." They're Britain at its socially awkward best. The Vintage Repertory Company, with only one native English person in its cast, captures the purely British eccentricities of character astonishingly well.

These two one-act plays were written as a pair. Like Alice in Wonderland's looking glass, they mirror each other in a fashion all their own. Both are studies of love triangles, and of how the quirky psychologies of each member of the triumvirate affects the others — in the most unexpected ways. The format is similar to that of Jean-

Paul Sartre's play "Huis Clos," except in an uplifting way. In "Huis Clos," the three characters are incarcerated together in

hell, each with the demonic ability to see clearly into the other and psychoanalyze him. It's the characters' inability to disguise themselves in favorable lights, and thus to escape the truth — the insight of the others — that defines hell. Sartre had a point.

The drama of Shaffer's plays derives from the evolution from mistaken identities to this same unblinking insight into and recognition of one another. But these, after all, are comedies, and instead of hell issuing from the power of insight, resigned stasis is the issue in one, and salvation in the other.

"The Private Ear" is about Tchaik the Power Nerd, played by Skip Emerson. Tchaik has half-willingly put himself in the hands of Ted, the Cool Dude, played by David Blair. The Dude is going to teach Ted the tricks of the trade in the wooing of birds ("chicks" in American). And Tchaik has just met one at a Bach concert.

But to Tchaik (thus dubbed entirely unsympathetically by Ted because of his love of classical music — especially Tchaikovsky) this lady, Doreen (Jane Bergeron), is no bird. For one thing, birds don't go to concerts of classical music. For another, he watched her attentively throughout the concert and she listened attentively, her head tilted to expose her beautiful swan-like neck, reminding him hopelessly of Botticelli's "Birth of Venus." He is smitten, but only with his own idealized imagination. The bird (for alas, she is one), a simple stenographer who attended the concert by accident — and without a clue as to what she was hearing — comes to dinner, and the comedy of misunderstanding ensues.

"The Public Eye" concerns another sort of nerd — Charles, an uptight, restricted, pompous accountant (played again by Emerson) with visions of grandeur in his own perceived role of Pygmalion to his young and foolish wife (Bergeron). He is enthralled with his project of remaking her in his own image — perfecting her, in other words. Then she begins to spend a lot of time away from home and his suspicions ungle him. He resorts to hiring a private detective. The detective Christoforou (Blair) is a study in eccentricity, and a parody of the mad genius. Dressed in an apron of plaids and rumples, and himself a cacophony of mannerisms, he turns his task of discovery as a "private" eye into a mission of deep insight into the characters both of his employer and his prey. By understanding human nature, his eye is perforce "public." Another comedy of misunderstandings unravels, with an outcome that gets curiozier and curiozier.

The dialogue is fast-paced and witty. So fast-paced, in fact, and in such thick English dialect, that many fine plays on words scurry by unrecognized. All three members of the cast capture their quirky characters well, especially Blair who, although he inappropriately carries some of Christoforou's unique mannerisms into his role as Ted, portrays the loony detective brilliantly. The troupe is also presenting "Private Lives" at their Ocean Park location, and "Private/Public" at Portland's cafe no on July 25.

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Entertainment

Weekly

Continued from page 17

CON
CERTS

THURSDAY 7.25

Ad Vielle Que Pourra (French folk) 6 pm, Olin Arts Center Amphitheater, Bates College, Lewiston. Breton French folk group performs songs and dance tunes featuring hurdy-gurdy, bagpipes, fiddle, accordion, and more. Free. 786-6330.

Lenny Deluze (vaudeville) noon, Tommy's Park, Middle & Exchange streets, Portland. Free. 772-6828.

FRIDAY 7.26

Bowdoin Summer Music Festival (classical) 8 pm, First Parish Church, corner of Maine Street & Bath Road, Brunswick. Concert features baritone Kurt Olmann, soprano Bonnie Scarpelli and mezzo-soprano Barbara Ann Martin performing Mozart opera arias from "Don Giovanni," "Così fan tutti" and "Mozart de Figaro" with the Mozart Festival Orchestra conducted by festival Artistic Director Lewis Kaplan. Also included in the program are Romanances by Robert Schumann performed by Oboist Ronald Roseman and pianist Martin Carlin and "Ballade" by Frank Martin played by pianist Emma Tahmianian and flutist Robert Wilkoughby. Tickets: \$12, 725-3895.

Desperate Avikadoz (jazz folk, R&B with island rhythms) noon, Monument Square. Free. 772-6828.

Portland Symphony Orchestra (classical) 7:30 pm, Fort Williams Park, Cape Elizabeth. "Out of This World," themes from famous movies. Pre-concert entertainment with Maine Bones at 6. Advance tickets: \$12 adults, \$10 kids, seniors & groups of 10 or more, \$30 family of four; same day box \$13/\$11/\$30.

String Trio of New York (jazz) 8 pm, Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave. Tickets: \$13, 774-0465.

Devonsquare (jazz, pop & more) 8 pm, Center for the Arts at the Chocolate Church, 804 Washington Ave, Bath. Tix: \$10, 442-6455.

SATURDAY 7.27

The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber (theatrical concert) 8 pm, at the Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland. Musical numbers and specially arranged orchestral suites from his like "The Phantom of the Opera," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Evita," "Cats," etc., performed by 37-piece orchestra and 12 Broadway singers. Tickets: \$20/\$25, 775-3458 or 1-800-382-8080.

SUNDAY 7.28

Bowdoin Summer Music Festival student concert (classical) 7:30 pm, Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. Donation of \$2 for festival's student scholarship fund. 725-3895.

Portland String Quartet (chamber) 8 pm, Olin Arts Center Concert Hall, Bates College, Lewiston. All-Mozart program commemorating the 200th anniversary of the composer's death. Program includes his string quartets in D Major and F Major, and the Prelude and Fugue from his String Trio. Admission: \$8/\$5, 786-6135.



MONDAY 7.29

Troy Johnston (juggling, family entertainment) Maine National Bank, Temple & Federal streets. Free. 772-6828.

TUESDAY 7.30

Bowdoin Summer Music Festival student concert (classical) 7:30 pm, Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. Donation of \$2 for festival's student scholarship fund. 725-3895.

Lazy Mercedes (original folk duo) noon, Dana Street, Pld. Free. 772-6828.

The Moxie Men (acoustic folk duo) 7 pm, Deering Oaks Park, Pld. Free. 874-8793 or 874-8300, ext 8791.

Berj Zamkochian (organist) 7:30 pm, Portland City Hall Auditorium, 30 Myrtle St. Organist of the Boston Pops plays music of Bach, Mozart, Delliailan, Pielouin & others on Kotschmar organ. Free, donations at door. 767-3297.

WEDNESDAY 7.31

Chronicle (acoustic folk-rock) Congress Square Park, Portland. Free. 772-6828.

Lazy Mercedes (acoustic folk duo) 7:50 pm, W. Prom (Maine Med end), Pld. Free. 874-8793 or 874-8300, ext 8791.

UPCOMING

Bowdoin Summer Music Festival concert 8/2/91 (classical) 8 pm, First Parish Church, corner of Maine Street & Bath Road, Brunswick. Concert features baritone Kurt Olmann, soprano Bonnie Scarpelli and mezzo-soprano Barbara Ann Martin performing Mozart opera arias from "Don Giovanni," "Così fan tutti" and "Mozart de Figaro" with the Mozart Festival Orchestra conducted by festival Artistic Director Lewis Kaplan. Also included in the program are Romanances by Robert Schumann performed by Oboist Ronald Roseman and pianist Martin Carlin and "Ballade" by Frank Martin played by pianist Emma Tahmianian and flutist Robert Wilkoughby. Tickets: \$12, 725-3895.

Leo Kottke 8/3/91 (12-string acoustic guitar master) 8:30 pm, Leavitt Theater, Ogunquit. With guitarist Harvey Reid. Tix: \$15. Available at Leavitt Theater box office, Ogunquit; Ragamuffin, Ogunquit; Record Rendezvous, Kennebunk; and The Port Gardens Inn, Kennebunkport.



CLUBS

THURSDAY 7.25

Vintage Repertory Co. presents Peter Schaffer's "Public Eye" (theatre at the no) cafe no, 20 Danforth St, Portland. 772-8114.

Selfish Men (rock) Moose Alley, 46 Market St, Portland. 774-5246.

Bicycle Thieves (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

The Raze (rock) Spring Point Cafe, 175 Pickett St, S. Portland. 767-4627.

Peter Gleason (acoustic) Tipperary Pub, Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Pld. 775-6161.

John Gorka with special guest Jim Gaudet (progressive folk) Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

FRIDAY 7.26

Scott Oakley Duo (jazz) Little Willie's, 36 Market St, Portland. 773-4500.

The Scott Reeves Band (jazz) cafe no, 20 Danforth St, Portland. 772-8114.

Swift Icecubes (rock) Moose Alley, 46 Market St, Portland. 774-5246.

Bicycle Thieves (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

Port City Allstars (jazz) Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

The Raze (rock) Spring Point Cafe, 175 Pickett St, S. Portland. 767-4627.

Tony Boffa Trio (acoustic) Tipperary Pub, Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Pld. 775-6161.

Chadbourne Brothers (rock) The Wrong Brothers Pub at Port Billiards, 39 Forest Ave, Portland. 775-1944.

SATURDAY 7.27

Broken Men (rock) Father O'Hara's Public House, 45 Danforth St, Portland. 871-1579.

Scott Oakley Trio (jazz) Little Willie's, 36 Market St, Portland. 773-4500.

The Scott Reeves Band (jazz) cafe no, 20 Danforth St, Portland. 772-8114.

Swift Icecubes (rock) Moose Alley, 46 Market St, Portland. 774-5246.

Bicycle Thieves (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

Bill Chinnock (rock) Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

The Marlboro Men (rock) Spring Point Cafe, 175 Pickett St, S. Pld. 767-4627.

Straight Up (acoustic) Tipperary Pub, Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Pld. 775-6161.

The Pulse (rock) The Wrong Brothers Pub at Port Billiards, 39 Forest Ave, Portland. 775-1944.

SUNDAY 7.28

Sean Sheerins (rock) Father O'Hara's Public House, 45 Danforth St, Portland. 871-1579.

Jenny & Jeremy (rock) Moose Alley, 46 Market St, Portland. 774-5246.

The Acoustic Connection (acoustic) Spring Point Cafe, 175 Pickett St, S. Portland. 767-4627.

Darien Brahms (folk rock) Gritty McDuff's, 396 Fore St, Portland. 772-2739.

Sunday Brunch in the Ballroom (classical) Portland Regency, 20 Milk St, Portland. 774-4200.

Rockin' Vibration (reggae) Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

Gerbil in a Blender (acoustic) Wharf's End, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.

MONDAY 7.29

Monday Night at the Movies ("The Krays") Moose Alley, 46 Market St, Portland. 774-5246.

Open Mic Night with Randy Morabito (b.y.o. jam) Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

Open Mic Night with Ken Grimsley (b.y.o. jam) Wharf's End, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.

TUESDAY 7.30

The Walters (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

Tall Richard (blues) Gritty McDuff's, 396 Fore St, Portland. 772-2739.

Marcia Ball (bayou R&B) Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

Open Mic Night with Peter Gleason (b.y.o. jam) Spring Point Cafe, 175 Pickett St, S. Portland. 767-4627.

Ken's Little Shop of Horrors (acoustic) Wharf's End, 52 Wharf St, Pld. 773-0093.

WEDNESDAY 7.31

The Scott Oakley Trio (jazz) cafe no, 20 Danforth St, Portland. 772-8114.

New Band Night (rock) Spring Point Cafe, 175 Pickett St, S. Portland. 767-4627.

Lost Dog (jazz) Father O'Hara's Public House, 45 Danforth St, Pld. 871-1579.

The Walters (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

Jim Lyden Trio with Larry Garland's Piano (jazz) cafe no, 20 Danforth St, Portland. 772-8114.

Bachelors' Night (xxx) Moose Alley, 46 Market St, Portland. 774-5246.

Zane Michael Raven (acoustic) Wharf's End, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.

Open Mic Night with the Cool Whips (b.y.o. jam) The Wrong Brothers Pub at Port Billiards, 39 Forest Ave, Pld. 775-1944.

Redlight Revue (swing) Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave, Pld. 773-6886.

DANCING

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T-Bird's, 128 N. Boyd St, Portland. Fri-Sat, Dancing '50s & '60s; Wed, Contemporary. 773-8040.

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Zootz, 31 Forest Ave, Portland. Wed: Progressive; Thu: Visual Vibe; Fri: Deejay/Live Music; Sat: Cutting Edge Dance; Sun: Request Night. 773-6167.

ART
OPENING

Congress Square Gallery, 42 Exchange St, Portland. Opening Aug 1 from 5-7 pm for the watercolors of Alan Sanborn, on view through Aug 23. Summer hours: Mon-Wed, 10:30-5; Thurs & Fri, 10:30-9; Sat 12-9; and Sun 12-5.

Dean Valentgas Gallery, 60 Hampshire St, Portland. Reception Aug 2 from 5-8 pm for "Views of the Head Behind," a series of sculpture dealing with body and mind by Celeste Roberge. Viewing will evoke concepts of mind and creation, as one sorts through fragments of clay shapes and attempts through personal history to assemble a recognizable past. Showing through Sept 1. Gallery hours: Thurs 12-8; Fri & Sat 12-5; Sun 12-4; and by appt. 772-2042.

AROUND TOWN

Abacus, 44 Exchange St, Portland. Contemporary handcrafted jewelry of Gabriel Ofiesh, through Sept 2. Hours: Sun, 11-5; Mon-Sat, 10-9. 772-4880.

An Art Space, 273 Presumpscott St, Portland. "Photographs by John C. Ferris," showing through Aug 18. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 1-6. 871-8285.

The Baxter Gallery, Portland School of Art, 619 Congress St, Portland. "Point of View: Contemporary Dutch Jewelry." The collection includes 125 pieces executed primarily in non-precious metals, wood, fabric, rubber and paper and reflects aesthetic distinctions between linear design notions of the 1960s and a more personal expression of form, scale and wearability that characterized the 70s. Showing through Aug 1. Also: "1991 Watershed Artists," a selection of works from residents at Watershed Center for the Ceramics Arts, located in North Edgemoor, ME. This two-part installation will be presented by 1990-91 residents and the four artists who will be artists in residence this summer: Joe Bova, Bruno LaVerdiere, Michael Lucero and Farley Tobin. Through August 16. Summer gallery hours are Mon-Fri, 10 am-5 pm. 775-5152.

Danforth Gallery, 34 Danforth St, Portland. "Children Portray Adults: Adults Portray Children" is a visual and written exhibition helping to define and improve child-adult relationships. Showing through July 26. Gallery hours: Tues-Sat, 11 am-5 pm. 775-6245.

Frost Gully Gallery, 411 Congress St, Portland. A new group exhibition featuring the works of all gallery artists, including oils, watercolor, pastels, and sculpture in a wide range of styles and subjects by Dalav Ipcar, DeWitt Hardy, Eric Green, Laurence Sisson, Alfred Chadbourne, Martha Groome, Sharon Yates, Cabot Lyford and John Laurent. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 12-6 pm, or by appointment. 773-2555.

Greenhut Galleries, 146 Middle St, Portland. Show of recent paintings by Alison Goodwin, whose work is rich in color and full of primitive, playful patterns that create their own unique landscapes in acrylic, oil stick and oil pastels. Through Aug 23. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10:30-5:30. 772-2693.

The Hitchcock Gallery, 602 Congress St, Portland. "The Benjamin Laidley Show," a memorial exhibition and sale of art in honor of the late Benjamin Laidley, will be held July 26-27 and Aug 2-3. Proceeds will benefit Chewonki International Camp Scholarship. Artists include Tom Paiment, Sarah Cox, Tom Jones, Sherry Miller, Rosalind Fassett. Hours: Fridays 6-9 pm, Saturdays 1-4 pm. 273-4132, 773-0976 or 772-0890.

Jewell Gallery, 345 Fore St, Portland. Group showings of oils, pastels, watercolors, prints and stained glass by Bill Jewell, Paul Black, Bert Weiss, Phyllis Wilkins, Terry O'Maley, Sarah Elizabeth Look, Rebecca Cuming, Joyce Richardson and Joseph Cousins. Estate and custom jewelry and antiques, as well. Showing through July. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-5:30 pm; eves and Sundays by appointment. 773-3334.

Mariner's Church Bakery, 366 Fore St, Portland. Interior landscapes in oil and pastel by Portland artist & musician Lisa Dombec. Showing through July 30. Hours: Mon-Sat, 9 am-4 pm. 773-2253.

The Photo Gallery, Portland School of Art, 619 Congress St. An exhibition of oil and watercolor paintings by Freepoint artist Eric Glass: vintage aircraft, childhood memories and the current Maine scene. Showing through Aug 30. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 9-5. Free. 775-3052.

Continued on page 20

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Entertainment
Weekly

Continued from page 19

ART

The Pine Tree Shop and Bayview Gallery, 75 Market St., Portland. Carol Hayes-Conti's recent watercolors of Maine landscapes through July 31. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-6 pm. 773-3007.

Portland Museum of Art, Seven Congress Square, Portland. Hours: Tue-Sat, 10 am-5 pm; Sun 12-5 pm; open Thu till 9 pm. Admission: adults \$3.50, senior citizens and students with ID \$2.50, children under 18 \$1, group rate \$3. Free admission Thu from 5-9 pm. 773-2787.

Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: The Collector's Passion Drawn from private collections, the works offer a chance to see Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces that have seldom been shown publicly. Artists included in the exhibition are Monet, Gauguin, Degas, Renoir and Hassam. On view from Aug 1-Oct 13.

Photographs from a Lost Frontier: M. Marvin Breckinridge An exhibition of early historic American photography featuring 20 black and white photographs by M. Marvin Breckinridge Patterson, a first lady of the diplomatic corps, war correspondent, linguist, pilot, writer and photographer. Taken while she was a member of the Frontier Nursing Service in Kentucky during the 1930s, the photographs provide insight into the dignity and character of the Appalachian people. The story of how Mrs. Patterson forged rivers in Appalachian Kentucky in every season on horseback in order to take these photographs is a story about a courageous group of health-care pioneers, The Frontier Nursing Service. A 1930s film shot by Mrs. Patterson and documenting the Frontier Nursing Service will run through Sept 15.

Dea Island: Works of Elena Jahn A robust use of color and strong emotion pervade the paintings and pastels by Jahn, who divides her time between Monhegan Island and Puerto Rico, two very different islands that inspire a dialogue of opposites in her work. Despite the duality of the artist's lifestyle, her paintings and pastels are unified by a strong graphic quality where the drawing appears very gestural and emphatic. Says Jahn, "In both the work in Maine and Puerto Rico, I am after strong emotion: I want movement, shock, change, disruption, and passion." On view through Sept 22.

The Stein Gallery, 20 Milk St., Portland. Group sculpture by gallery artists, featuring a wide variety of techniques, textures and styles. Bienn, cast, sandblasted, constructed, etc. A spectacular display of form, shape and color. Through Aug 31. Gallery Hours: Mon-Sat, 11 am-6 pm; Sun, 12-5 pm. 772-9072.

Sun Gallery, 496 Congress St., Portland. Paintings and drawings by Lauri Twitchell. Through Aug 25. Gallery hours: Wed-Sat, 11 am-6 pm. 772-8616.

OUT OF TOWN

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Walker Art Building, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. "Trees," an exhibition comprised of works in a variety of media including drawings, prints, photographs and illustrated books dating from the 19th century to the present, presents an opportunity to view works that concentrate on the rich symbolic image of the tree. Highlights of the show include drawings by Rockwell Kent and James Hart; prints by Camille Pissarro, Odilon Redon and Theodore Rousseau; and photographs by Eliot Porter and Jean Eugene Auguste Algel. Exhibit runs through Sept 29. "Leonard Baskin: Prints, Drawings, and Sculpture" will run through Aug 18. The museum is open to the public free of charge. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm; Sunday, 2-5 pm. Summer guided tours are also available through August 24. Tuesdays & Thursdays at 2 pm, and Wednesdays & Fridays at 12:30 pm. For further info, call 725-3275.

Hobe Sound Galleries North, 58 Maine St., Brunswick. Rich, powerful works by Abby Shahn in tempera on paper, multi-faceted abstract collage based on nature by David Driskell, and site-specific steel and stone sculpture by Ron Cross. Through Aug 17. Gallery hours: Thurs-Sat, 10 am-5 pm. 725-4191.



Alison Goodwin: "Vancouver," mixed media, 27" x 35."

Alison Goodwin

Greenhut Galleries, 146 Middle St., Portland Through Aug. 5

This is a rave review. Perhaps because beauty is elevating. Or because the dreamlike, folkloric paintings of Chagall have always filled me with a sense of wonder. Or because the intricately decorated swaths of color in the paintings of Matisse sweep my sleepy consciousness to unaccustomed levels of lyric awareness. Perhaps it's because Paul Klee loved children's art, and did wonderful naive paintings, including one of a simple boat in a harbor that he painted a crazy yellow. Or because Picasso filled entire planes with wallpaper patterns in the midst of a revolutionary painting ("Guernica"), and I felt a sense of optimism. These Expressionist and Post-Expressionist painters used color and pattern in a way that celebrated the rhythms of nature, landscapes, cities and people. They awakened primitive emotions—certain yearnings from a place of innocence.

I feel all of this looking at the paintings of Alison Goodwin. Her paintings, which are of people, towns and cities, flowers and the interiors of friends' houses, are abstract and figurative works on richly decorated one-dimensional planes. They're playful, humorous, and filled with a pervasive happiness. They're beautiful, ornamental canvases of intense colors that are made to glitter by the superimposition of metallic gold paint. They're the Arabian Nights.

Goodwin says in her statement about her painting that her recent work is a revival of voyages "across the park, across the country, across the ocean." It would seem that her voyages took her into the company of the paintings of the contemporary German painter Hundertwasser, whose water-based paintings, though more abstract and less figurative than Goodwin's, are also playful, one-dimensional landscapes, with a similar rich palette and use of ornamental gold leaf. The tree then branches from Hundertwasser to Gustav Klimt, in whose painting "The Kiss" the lovers are painted figuratively, but the quilt that wraps around them is built and constructed by pigments and metallic paints, much as a real quilt is constructed.

Goodwin's paintings combine all of these qualities with a style drawn also from cubism, primitivism and folk art. With this combination, she creates paintings that are highly ornate and exotic. One, with the domesticated, neighborly title of "Mary Lou's House," feels more like a Moroccan tapestry than a local domestic scene, evoking a dwelling-place from a much more exotic corner of the world than Mary Lou's house probably is. The floor is a black and white checkerboard on an almost vertical plane. On the right is what must be a bathroom, but which, with its Persian tiled floor and pedestal sink, looks as though it escaped from a 15-century, Middle Eastern painting. The arched window on the left with the suggested form of a black cat bounding out also adds to the exotic feeling. It's a rich, mysterious painting that suggests travels to the world's farthest corners.

Similarly, Goodwin's transformation of the familiar into the exotic is wonderful in her rich tapestry of a painting, "Hallowell." In reality a small and prosaic New England town, it becomes a Russian village comprised of what look like a series of icons, with gold-leaf arches beneath the roofs. The houses, clustered together, are on a descending plane, and have a magical, fairy-tale quality, as though they were part of a scene from "The Snow Princess." Goodwin's sense of humor expresses itself with a deliberate childlikeness. "Biddeford Pool," a painting of the place that her family visited when she was a child, is a perfect rendition of a child's conception of a place and what its name might mean. The painting has, as its center, a giant blue circle around the lower rim of which are little houses, all jammed together on the edge of the pool. Behind the houses is a large black streak that, in the lower left, goes off into different junctures. On this black strip are hundreds of little blue squares rushing about—cars on the highway to Boston. The painting is a kid's map of Biddeford Pool: the predominance of this giant pool, and its enormous importance at the center of the painting, is exactly the world through a child's eyes.

Goodwin simplifies the elements of the landscape, placing them on planes so that they begin to totter off in tilted directions. She divides her canvases into geometric elements, and then decorates them fully with repeated motifs of spirals and rectangles. The business and life of her scenes are suggested by moving shapes and surges of paint. She saturates the whole with colors that play vibrantly with each other. The result is a lyrical, intense nexus of lines and color that create a joyful, festive world.

Margot McWilliams

The Center for the Arts, Chocolate Church, 804 Washington St., Bath. Works of "Three photographers from Maine": Maggie Foskett of Camden, Dan Rossborough of Spruce Head, and Brunswick's John Dico. Foskett's large, meticulously crafted Cibachrome color prints of primitive masks forcefully remind us of our close ties to primitive peoples and their cultures. Rossborough concentrates on unusual, semi-abstract images which evoke the scene rather than depicting it literally. Dico's black and white prints document life on an isolated island, Isle au Haut, in Penobscot Bay. Through Aug 2. Gallery hours: Tues-Fri, 9-4; Sat, 12-4. 442-8455.

Elements Gallery, 56 Maine St., Brunswick. Robert Siebleton's contemporary folk wood carving and painting: authentic duck decoys to witty interpretations of familiar imagery. Thru Aug 17. Hours: Tues-Sat, 10 am-5 pm. 729-1108.

O'Farrell Gallery, 46 Maine St., Brunswick. New paintings by Eileen Gillespie, whose work is organic in nature and focuses on minutiae, of which the artist says: "It is that which to me is sublime that I take notice. It may be the intricate substructure of a leaf, the exoskeleton of a shell, the strange light of dawn flecking through the air, an odd passage." Showing through Aug 17. Gallery hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-5 pm. 729-8228.

Wellehan Library, Saint Joseph's College, Standish. "An African-American Art Exhibit" with works of black American artists spanning a period of over 150 years, from the early 1800s to contemporary times. Some of the artists represented include Robert Duncan, Henry O. Tanner, Horace Pippin, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, David Driskell and Samella Lewis. Through Aug 8. Call 781-4420.

OTHER

Chocolate Church Juried Show The Gallery at The Chocolate Church will exhibit a juried show of paintings and sculpture titled "Maine: A Summer Place," from Aug 2-31. Entries should be submitted ready for hanging or displaying on Tuesday, July 30 from 9:30 am-4 pm. Entry fee is \$10 for three submissions, \$8 for two and \$5 for one. There is no entry fee for members. A reception for the public will be held Aug 2 from 5-7 pm. Gallery hours: Tues-Fri, 9-4; Sat, noon-4. For more info call 443-4090.

Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: The Collector's Passion Curator of Collections Marth Severens will give a gallery talk on this exhibition Aug 1 at 5:15 pm at Portland Museum of Art (7 Congress Square). Severens will discuss how the Impressionists broke through traditional thinking and how the Post-Impressionists expanded on their originality. The gallery talk is free. Severens will give the same lecture Aug 2 at 12:30 pm, when it will be free with museum admission. For more info, call 773-2787.

The River Tree Outdoor Art Festival will be held Saturday, Aug 3, from 10-5 on the River Green in Kennebunkport. Paintings, drawings, photographs and graphics by local and regional artists will be shown at the fair ground. The Maine Brass Quintet will add to the festivities and lunch and refreshments will be available. The River Tree Arts Music School Student Orchestra will perform and children's activities will be featured. For info, call River Tree Arts at 985-4343.

"The Sixth Annual Downeast Wildlife Art Festival" will feature 60 artists exhibiting their carvings, paintings, sculptures, photographs and prints. The festival is open to the public from 10 am-9 pm Saturday, Aug 3, and from 10 am-5 pm Sunday, Aug 4. At Freeport High School, Holbrook Street extension, Freeport. Admission is \$3. 397-4742.

Video: A Day in the Country Music by Debussy and commentary on the Impressionist movement introduce 40 important landscapes by such artists as Monet, van Gogh and Renoir. Wednesday, Aug 7 at 12:30 pm. Free with museum admission. Brown bag lunch available from the Museum Cafe. Call 775-6148 for more info.

Craft of Fiction with Dianne Benedict This weekend workshop will focus intensely both on the craft and process of writing fiction. The work will be divided into 5 two-hour sessions, beginning the morning of Aug 3 with an intensive workshop Saturday morning directly into the fundamental elements of fiction, and ending Sunday evening with a discussion of problems that impede the creative flow of writing, and how to overcome them. The course is not designed to cover writing already in progress, but scene-writing directives will be given during the first session, designed to enrich and deepen each writer's work by channeling her/him into the deeper levels of the creative self. Work generated by these directives will be workshopped on the second day. Open to writers of all levels of experience. Cost is \$50 members of Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, \$60 non-members. Limited to 15. Pre-registration required. Mail checks to the alliance at 19 Mason Street, Brunswick, or call 729-6333.

"The Invisibility of Gays, Lesbians, and Blacks in American History" The Mainville Society Presents Speaker Gerry Talbot, the first black member of the Maine Legislature, first sponsor of a gay civil rights bill in Maine, president of Black Education and History, Inc. will speak July 25, from 7:30-9 pm, on the second floor of the People's Building, 155 Brackett St., Portland. The Mainville Society is an educational and cultural organization of gays and lesbians committed to sharing their history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive social environment. Meets second and fourth Thursdays of the month at above time. Call 774-0775 for more info.

Stonewall Writers' Conference at USM Portland is offering a series of readings, lectures & panels free and open to the public. For more info on any of the following, call 780-4076. July 29: 1:30 pm, Panel on Literary Genres with selected Stonewall staff. In Room 113, USM's Masterion Hall. 7:30 pm, Reading by Denise Gess and Robley Wilson in USM's Luther Bonney Auditorium. July 30: 1:30 pm, Panel on Writing with Dianne Benedict, Peggy Fisher, Denise Gess & Deborah Digges. Room 113 of USM's Masterion Hall. 7:30 pm, Reading by Susan Shetterly & Betsy Sholl in USM's Luther Bonney Auditorium. Aug 1: 1:30 pm, Nonfiction Writing Panel with Barry Sanders, Peggy Fisher, Denise Gess & Deborah Digges. Room 113 of USM's Masterion Hall. 7:30 pm, Reading by Roy Gallant and Barry Sanders, Portland Public Library Auditorium. Aug 2: 1:30 pm, Panel on Writing and Politics with David Bradley, Martin Jones, Paul Guemsey and Betsy Sholl. Room 113, USM's Masterion Hall. 7:30 pm, Reading by David Bradley, Portland Public Library Auditorium. Aug 3: 1:30 pm, Panel on Book Publishing with David Godine, Kenyon Rosen, Betsy Sholl and Amy MacDonald. Room 113, USM's Masterion Hall. 7:30 pm, Reading by Martin Jones and Amy MacDonald, USM's Luther Bonney Auditorium. Aug 4: 1:30 pm, Panel on Literary Magazines with Lois Rosenthal, Richard Rosenthal, Robley Wilson and Sena Jeter Naslund. Room 113, USM's Masterion Hall. 7:30 pm, Reading by Peggy Fisher and Sena Jeter Naslund, USM's Luther Bonney Auditorium. Aug 7: 7:30 pm, Reading by Barbara Hope and Deborah Digges, USM's Luther Bonney Auditorium. Aug 8: 1:30 pm, Panel on Graduate Schools in Creative Writing with Stephen Dobyns, Cheryl Drake, Judy Delogu, Jacquie Fuller and Barry Sanders. Room 113, USM's Masterion Hall. 7:30 pm, Reading by Stephen Dobyns, USM's Luther Bonney Auditorium.

WELLNESS

Aquatic Fitness & Aqua-Aerobics USM Lifetime will be offering its next 10-week sessions starting Aug 12. Classes are non-competitive and geared to all fitness levels. Aquatic Fitness incorporates lap swimming into its program and will be held at the Riverton Pool at 6 am and the S. Portland municipal pool at 8 pm on Mondays. Wednesday & Friday. Aqua-aerobics classes include stretching, calisthenics and aerobics to music, all done in the shallow end of the pool. Classes will be held at the Riverton Pool at 6:45 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Non-swimmers welcome. Pre-registration is required; deadline is Aug 5. Call 780-4170 for more info.

Developing a Personal Yoga Practice Portland Yoga Studio offers this course Aug 3 from 8:30-10:30 am. During the first hour: a presentation and discussion of how to fashion an ongoing home yoga practice and how to modify it to meet different needs. Second hour: an actual class of Iyengar hatha yoga. At 616 Congress St., Portland. Cost is \$16. For more info, call 797-5684.

Healthy Beginnings offers classes for expectant and new parents to assist you in making your birth and parenting a joyful and fulfilling experience. Upcoming classes include Breastfeeding, July 28, from 7-9:30 pm; and Early Pregnancy Aug 12, from 7-9:30 pm. There is also a new parents support group forming this summer/fall. For info or to register, call Mary Taylor, ICE, at 829-3362.

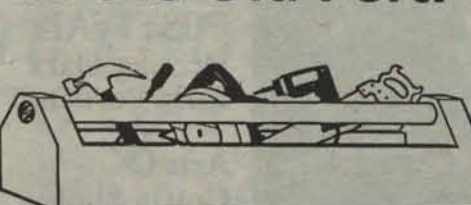
Love Your Back USM Lifetime's next session begins Aug 5 at 5 pm at the Portland campus gym on Falmouth Street. Sessions run for four Monday evenings and include exercise sessions and updated educational components. Designed for individuals who have a history of back problems. Medical clearance is required. Pre-registration is encouraged as class size is limited. Info, call 780-4170.

Portland Yoga Studio Summer Offerings Separate sessions of Iyengar yoga will be offered beginning July 25 & 26 (all from 5:30-7 pm). Cost for six weeks is \$54. Friday's five-week session is \$45. All of above are offered at 616 Congress St. Hatha Yoga for People With AIDS will also continue through Aug 28 from 12:40-2 pm every Wednesday, at 22 Monument Square (take the elevator to the fifth floor). The cost is \$1 per class for those who can afford it. Call 797-5684.

Continued on page 22

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